

## The Baptist Faith & Message, 2000

### II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

### B. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, **fully divine**. He **inspired** holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through **illumination** He enables men to understand truth. He **exalts Christ**. He **convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment**. He **calls men to the Saviour, and effects regeneration**. At the moment of regeneration **He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ**. He **cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts** by which they serve God through His church. He **seals the believer unto the day of final redemption**. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. **He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.**

[Genesis 1:2](#); [Judges 14:6](#); [Job 26:13](#); [Psalms 51:11](#); [139:7ff.](#); [Isaiah 61:1-3](#); [Joel 2:28-32](#); [Matthew 1:18](#); [3:16](#); [4:1](#); [12:28-32](#); [28:19](#); [Mark 1:10,12](#); [Luke 1:35](#); [4:1,18-19](#); [11:13](#); [12:12](#); [24:49](#); [John 4:24](#); [14:16-17,26](#); [15:26](#); [16:7-14](#); [Acts 1:8](#); [2:1-4,38](#); [4:31](#); [5:3](#); [6:3](#); [7:55](#); [8:17,39](#); [10:44](#); [13:2](#); [15:28](#); [16:6](#); [19:1-6](#); [Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27](#); [1 Corinthians 2:10-14](#); [3:16](#); [12:3-11,13](#); [Galatians 4:6](#); [Ephesians 1:13-14](#); [4:30](#); [5:18](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:19](#); [1 Timothy 3:16](#); [4:1](#); [2 Timothy 1:14](#); [3:16](#); [Hebrews 9:8,14](#); [2 Peter 1:21](#); [1 John 4:13](#); [5:6-7](#); [Revelation 1:10](#); [22:17](#).

#### **Key Text: (all texts are NKJV)**

- **Genesis 1:2:** The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
- **Psalms 139:7:** Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?
- **Joel 2:28-32:** And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls.
- **John 4:24:** "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."
- **John 14-16**

Important Doctrines 7 - Doctrine of God the Holy Spirit

- **John 14:16-17:** “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”
- **John 14:26:** “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”
- **John 16:7-11:** “Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”
- **Acts 1:8:** “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- **Acts 2:1-4:** “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
- **Romans 8:9-11:** “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”
- **Romans 8:14-16:** “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, —Abba, Father. “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”
- **1 Corinthians 12:13:** “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”
- **Galatians 4:6:** “And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, —Abba, Father!”
- **Ephesians 1:13-14:** “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”
- **Ephesians 4:30:** “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”
- **Ephesians 5:18:** “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”
- **2 Peter 1:21:** “for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

## **God the Spirit**

- 1. He is Fully Divine**
- 2. He is a person (not an it, thing, or force). (John 14:26)**
  - a. He possesses one undivided divine nature with God the Father and God the Son
- 3. He carries out the will and purposes of God.**
  - a. The Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures (2 Peter 1:20-21).**
    - i. He worked in the minds of biblical writers and moved in them so that they wrote as their own words the fully authoritative, reliable, and inerrant Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
  - b. The Holy Spirit illuminates the hearts and minds of believers to help them understand and apply the Scriptures to their lives (1 Cor. 2:14).**
    - i. The same Spirit that inspired the Bible uses the Bible to illuminate us who read it to transform us with the truth.
  - c. The Holy Spirit brings sinners to salvation (2 Cor. 4:4-6).**
    - i. He convicts us of sin, calls us to see Christ's saving work, regenerates us, enables us to respond to God in faith, hope, and love of Christ. (John 16:8; 2 Cor. 3:18)
  - d. The Holy Spirit transforms believers by empowering their ever-increasing sanctification.<sup>1</sup>**
    - i. Be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18), Walk in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16), bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
  - e. The Holy Spirit seals and guarantees salvation (Eph. 1:13-14).**
    - i. The Holy Spirit assures the certainty of our full and final sanctification in Glory.
  - f. The Holy Spirit equips for meaningful and fruitful service in the church (1 Cor. 12:11)**
    - i. Each member of the church is gifted by the Spirit to edify the body of Christ and God brings his transforming work in our lives through the ministry of the Body of Christ (1 Peter 4:10).
- 4. He exalts Jesus Christ, God the Son.**
  - a. Since the Spirit is not a "force/power" then we cannot get "more" of the Spirit (Simon was wrong to ask this in Acts 8:18-24). Since the Spirit is a person then we must surrender more of OUR LIVES to the person of the Holy Spirit.
  - b. The Holy Spirit exalts Christ, glorifies Christ, and testifies about Jesus (John 15:26; 16:14).
  - c. The Holy Spirit brings people into the Body of Christ through baptism (1 Cor. 12:13). At the moment of regeneration the Holy Spirit baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ.
  - d. The Holy Spirit gives every believer a spiritual gift as the Spirit wills (1 Cor. 12:1; 1 Cor. 12). "Charisma" is Greek for Spiritual Gift ("Charis"=grace, "ma"=results).

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<sup>1</sup> Danny Akin used the phrase "ever-increasing sanctification." It is a faithful phrase that seeks to describe the mysterious/glorious work of definitive sanctification and progressive sanctification in every believer. <https://www.danielakin.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/10/05-god-the-holy-spirit-manuscript-kh.pdf>

### **The Moving of the Holy Spirit**

1. The Holy Spirit moves **persistently** - HE IS ALWAYS AT WORK (the wind blows)
  - a. Sometimes he moves in a gale force (Pentecost)
  - b. Most of the time he moves gently (like a gentle breeze)
2. The Holy Spirit moves **providentially** - He is Sovereign
  - a. There is a sick, demented view of being able to prescribe what will God do.
3. The Holy Spirit moves **principally** - He moves according to Biblical principal
  - a. The work of the Holy Spirit is far higher and further than we will ever traverse.

### **The Manifestation of the Holy Spirit (you hear the sound of it)**

When the Holy Spirit is at work - there is evidence.

1. The Manifestation of the Holy Spirit is **PERSONAL**
2. God manifests himself to us **PERCEPTIVELY**
  - a. When God is speaking to you - You will KNOW
3. God manifests himself to us **PROVABLY**
  - a. You will be able to discern, others will see

### **The Mystery of the Holy Spirit**

We ought to avoid 3 things:

1. **Presumption**
2. **Pride** - we are NOT in charge of the Holy Spirit. Pride leads to ingratitude. We should be grateful that God would ever dare to speak to us.
3. **Procrastination** - We just go and do when He says GO and move!