

# Pneumatology: The Person and Works of the Holy Spirit

*The Well Institute, J. Scott Bridger, PhD*

# The Holy Spirit's Work in the Life of Peter

## Acts 10:28-29, 34-35

And he [Peter] said to them [Gentiles], “You yourselves know how unlawful it is for a Jew to associate with or to visit anyone of another nation, but God has shown me that I should not call any person common or unclean. So when I was sent for, I came without objection. I ask then why you sent for me...”... So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him...””

## 1 Peter 2:9-10

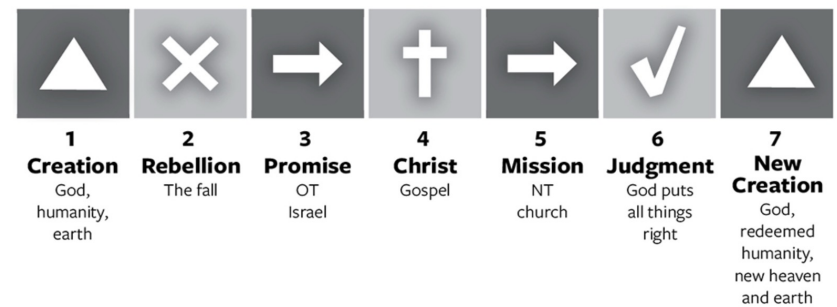
But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.



# God's Spirit Has Been and Continues to Be Active in His Story

1. Creation ("good" 7xs)
2. Rebellion (collective; shame; dishonoring God; Flood; Babel)
3. Promise (Gen 3:15; 12:3, etc.)
4. Christ (seed of Abraham, David, Messiah, King, Victorious and Living Lord, Savior)
5. Mission (God's mission; fulfillment of promise/prophecy)
6. Judgment (God's holiness, justice)
7. New Creation (our ultimate destination; renewal and reunification of heavens/earth; re-Edenification)

Fig. 2.9. Act 7: New Creation





# The Person and Works of the Holy Spirit

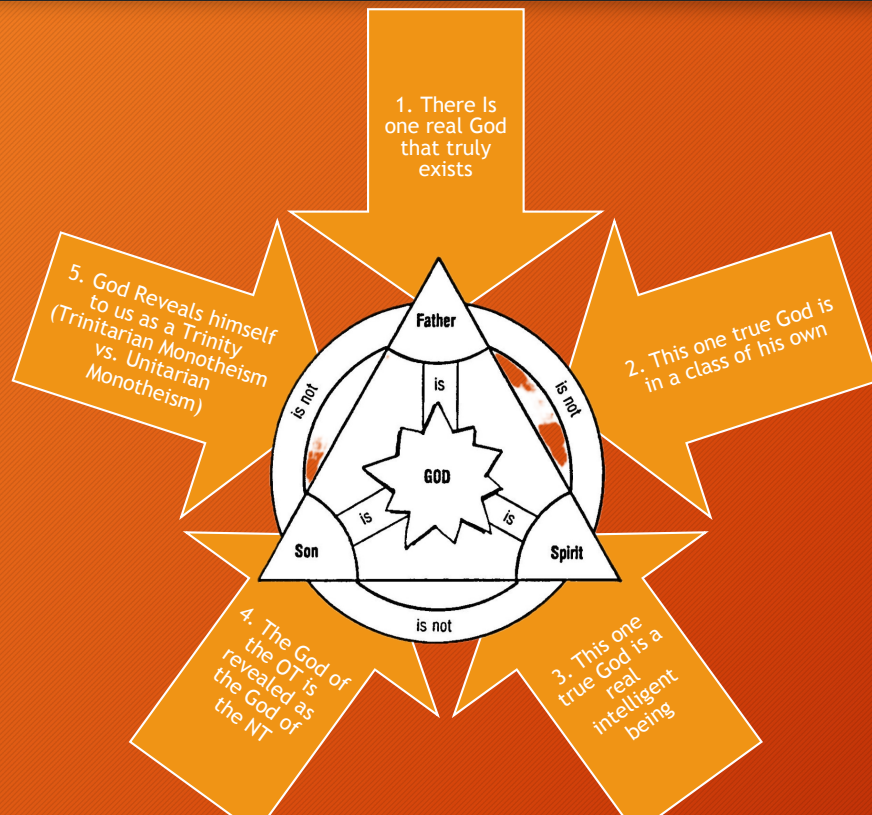
“Wherever the Spirit of God is, there is the church, and all grace.” (Irenaeus, d. 203)

“The Spirit of God has been the main focus of this 2000 year Church age as He has been unleashed upon this world to bring people to saving faith and advance God’s Kingdom. We need to know, really know, the third Person of the Trinity - God the Holy Spirit” (MH)

**Rom 8:9-11** “You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”



# Trinitarian Monotheism: One God in Three Co-Equal Persons: Father, Son, and Spirit



He is a  
spiritual  
being

He is a  
perfect  
being

He is an  
infinite  
being

He is a  
necessary  
being



# Vocabulary & Names of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments

## Old Testament

רוח - “wind” or “spirit”

- Spirit of God (Gen 1:2, 41:38; Ex 31:3, 35:31; Num 24:2; 1 Sam 10:10, 11:6; 2 Chr 15:1; Job 33:4; Ezk 11:24)
- Spirit of Yahweh (Judg 3:10, 6:34; 1 Sam 10:6; 1 Kings 18:12)
- Holy Spirit (Ps 51:11; Is 63:10-11)
- Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding (Is 11:2)
- Spirit of Glory (Ex 15:11)

## New Testament

πνεύματος - “spirit”

- Spirit of God (Matt 3:16)
- Counselor/Comforter (Jn 14:16)
- Spirit of the Father (Matt 10:20)
- Spirit of Christ (Gal 4:6)
- Spirit of Jesus (Acts 16:7; Phil 1:19)



# The Personhood of the Holy Spirit

- Personal
- Resident
- Prominent
- Conversion
- Power
- Christocentric
- Encourager
- Personal pronouns are used to describe the Holy Spirit
- Personal properties are attributed to the Holy Spirit
- Numerous activities are ascribed to the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit meets the criteria for being a Person



# Axioms about the Holy Spirit

1. He is a distinct Person in the Godhead
2. He is fully God
3. He is God with us - Emmanuel (immanence)
4. God the Spirit in the OT is God the Spirit in the NT





# The Works of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

- Manifestations of the Spirit
  - Life-giving Spirit
  - Spirit, not flesh/material
- Ministries of the Spirit
  - Creation
  - Revelation
  - Enablement
  - Reconciliation
  - Future Empowerment of a Servant-Messiah
  - Inaugurate a New Covenant
- The Spirit's Role in OT vs NT
  - Creative, prophetic, anointing, but not a permanently indwelling Spirit
  - Garden > Tabernacle > Temple > Pentecost > Church > New Creation
    - no temple per Rev 22



# God's Spirit Dwelling among Humanity across Salvation History

- **Garden:** God “walking in the garden in the cool of the day” (Gen 3:8)
- **Tabernacle:** “And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst” (Ex 25:8)
- **Temple:** “Now the word of the LORD came to Solomon...if you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules ... I will dwell among the children of Israel” (1 Kings 6:11-13)
- **Pentecost:** “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ... and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing” (Acts 2:32-33).
- **Church/Believers:** “Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?” (1 Cor 3:16).



# The Works of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament

- The ministry of the Spirit in the life and ministry of Christ (3 phases)
  1. The Spirit's Role in Christ's birth
  2. The Spirit's Role at Christ's baptism and in his ministry
  3. The Spirit's Role in Christ's resurrection and ascension
- The ministry of the Spirit in the New Testament
  - Biblical-Theological Framework (OT promise > NT fulfillment)
  - The Spirit's Role in this present age
    - Conversion
    - Sanctification and glorification
- Highlights from Church History
  - The Nicene Creed (AD 325 - 1700<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year)



## Paul Tripp on Sanctification by the Spirit

“Sanctification is the process by which God actually makes us what he has declared us to be in Christ, righteous” (344-45).

“...because of the righteousness of Christ, given over to our account, we stand before God legally, or positionally, righteous. Sanctification is that process by which God works to make us functionally, or actually, righteous” (355).

**Gal 5:16, 22-25** “But I say, walk by the Spirit... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control...If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”



# Baptism of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament

- OT expectation of Spirit empowerment (Ezek 36:26-28) is tied to the New Covenant (Jer 31:33)
- John the Baptist: Last OT prophet who declared the coming King would purge the world of sin and baptize with the Holy Spirit
- The Book of Acts: Spirit Baptism and Tongues (i.e., languages)
  - Acts 2 (Day of Pentecost)
  - Acts 8 (Samaritans)
  - Acts 10 (Cornelius)
  - Acts 19 (followers of John the Baptist)
- Paul in 1 Cor 12:13 notes that all believers are baptized by the Spirit into one Body, the church.



# Pentecostals and Charismatics: Views of Spirit Baptism

- Spirit Baptism occurs after conversion
  - Pentecostals - several denominations; Spirit baptism must be accompanied by tongues
    - Three-Blessing (Pentecostals)
    - Two-Blessing (Assemblies of God)
  - Charismatics - a set of theological tendencies; Spirit baptism might be accompanied by tongues
- Responses:
  - What about post-conversion Spirit baptism in Acts?
  - What about tongues after Spirit baptism?
  - What about Spirit baptism and 1 Cor 12:13?
- Conclusions:
  - Spirit baptism happens at conversion by Jesus
  - Thus, there is no such thing as a spiritually un-baptized believer
  - Spirit-fillings are different and can happen multiple times