

Living a Spirit-Filled Life

Everyday Theology
Grace Bally-Balogun
1st July 2025

What is the nature of the Holy Spirit?

- The Holy Spirit is a thing – e.g. ‘it’
- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity
- The Holy Spirit is a force or an energy
- I am not sure



Some Misconceptions

- **The Holy Spirit as an impersonal force**
- **The Holy Spirit as a later addition**
- **The Holy Spirit as a feeling**
- **The Holy Spirit as a lesser being**
- **The Holy Spirit only for specific people**
- **The Holy Spirit is only about dramatic displays**
- **The Holy Spirit only comes and goes**
- **The Holy Spirit is a new concept introduced by Jesus**
- **The Holy Spirit as a spirit from Jesus, not the Father**

Person or 'thing'

- Comforter – 'Parakletos'
- Mediator
- Advocate

Romans 8: 15 , 26-27

Pneumatology

- "pneuma" - translated as wind, breath or Spirit (John 3:5,8 and Rev. 13:15)
- Logos - which means a word or the study of
- Pneumatology means a study of the Holy Spirit
- Third person of the triune God
- Heb. word - *ruach*, Gk. word – *pneuma* (Genesis 1 & 2)
- He is God and he has the same essence and attributes of God

Attributes of The Holy Spirit

- Omnipotence (Gen. 1:2)
- Omniscient (1 Cor. 2: 10-11)
- Omnipresent (Ps. 139:7)
- Truth (1 John 5:6)
- Holiness (Luke 11:13)
- Life (Rom. 8:2)
- Wisdom (Isa. 40:13)

Pneuma through the Ages

The Early Church's response



First Council of Nicaea 325 AD

We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the Son of God,
begotten from the Father, only-begotten,
that is, from the substance of the Father,
God from God,
light from light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made,

First Council of Nicaea 325 AD

of one substance with the Father,
through Whom all things came into
being,
things in heaven and things on earth,
Who because of us men and because of
our salvation came down,
and became incarnate
and became man,
and suffered,
and rose again on the third day,
and ascended to the heavens,
and will come to judge the living and
dead,

And in the Holy Spirit.

Self-effacing

- The Spirit **always** points to Jesus
- The Spirit works within us
- He is in the background of all human activity



First Council of Constantinople 381 AD

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

First Council of Constantinople 381 AD

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HS is homoousios with the Father
Greek: homoousios - "of one substance"



What does this creed
say about who the
Spirit is and what the
Spirit does?

Holy Spirit in the Nicea- Constantinople Creed

- Giving glory to the Father through the Son in the Spirit
- The relationship between the HS and the Father in this creed is “proceeds from the Father”
- The HS is the one who speaks through the prophets
- The HS is the one who generates the church
- The HS enable Christian life – empowerment/gifts

Post Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed

Filioque Controversy 1014

- **Filioque** is a Latin term ("and from the Son")
- Incorporated into the liturgical practices of Rome in 1014
- 1054 it led to a schism in the Eastern and Western churches
- St. Thomas Aquinas – defended the filioque
- Hildegarde (12th Century) - Her writings demonstrate a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit, "that which brings all things to life"



Pneuma Today

The Work of the Holy Spirit

- Teacher and revealer of God's thoughts and ways (John 14:17, 26; 15:26; 16:13-15; 1 Jn 2:20, 27)
- Guidance and power for evangelism (Acts 1:8; 4:31; 8:29, 39)
- Holy Spirit is given to all who come into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ (6:19; Eph 1:13-14; Gal 3:2-5).

The Work of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit brings new life in Christ. He affirms believers' salvation (6:11; 2 Thes 2:13) and their identity as children of God (Rom 8:9, 14-17).
- The Holy Spirit gives Christians power over sin (Rom 8:1-4), power to live a fruitful life (Gal 5:22-23), and power for ministry (12:1-31).
- Believers are to be continuously "filled with the Spirit" (Eph 5:18), and though they experience the conflict between the flesh and the Spirit, they can please God by yielding to the Spirit's guidance and power (Gal 5:16-18).

The Work of the Holy Spirit

- He enables Christians to understand God's thoughts and ways (2:9-16).
- He gives spiritual gifts to believers to help the church grow (ch 12).
- The Spirit leads and empowers their worship as they use the gifts that the Spirit has given them (14:26-33, 39-40).

The Work of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit guarantees that believers will receive all the blessings that God has promised (2 Cor 1:22; 5:5; Eph 1:13-14).
- The Spirit helps believers and prays for them in their human weakness (Rom 8:26).
- The goal of the Spirit's work is to make them like Christ (Rom 8:28-29).



How does the Spirit
complement the work of
the Son in the world
today?

Be filled with the Holy Spirit

- Acts 4:7-8 “By what power and what name...Peter filled with the Holy Spirit”
- Even Jesus had to be anointed before He began His ministry (Acts 10:38)
- The Spirit is for everyone that believes (Acts 2:38-39).



God has given power to His church

The Promise of the Spirit:

- Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." [Luke 24:49](#)
- And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me"; [Acts 1:4](#)

God has given his Spirit as a guarantee:

- who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. [2 Cor 1:22](#)
- Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. [2 Cor 5:5](#)

God's power today

For 2026, include in this slide HS is the life-giver

Do we need the Spirit today?

- Jesus asked us, the church, to fulfill the mandate
- The Mandate - Matt 28:18-20 (Mark 16:15-18) Spread the gospel, heal the sick, cast out demons, baptise believers
- He gave us supernatural power to fulfill this - Acts 1:8

The Holy Spirit is for our everyday life!