

The Person and the Work of the Holy Spirit.

I. Why Study?

A. The Importance

1. Jesus said one couldn't see the Kingdom of God without being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

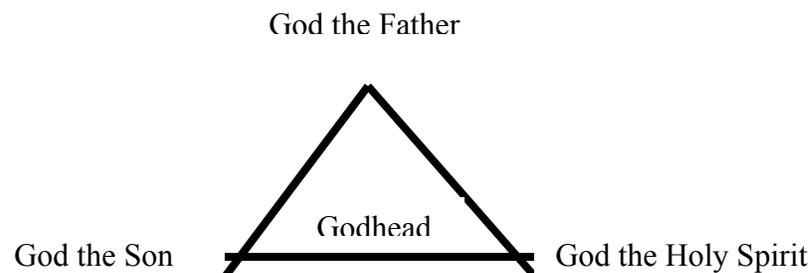
^{NIV} **John 3:5** Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

2. Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer.

^{NIV} **John 7:38** Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." ³⁹ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

^{NIV} **Romans 8:8** Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

3. Doctrine of the Holy Spirit impacts the doctrine of Trinity. Doctrine of Trinity is unique to Christianity. Holy Spirit is the point at which the Trinity becomes personal to the believer.



^{NIV} **Luke 3:21** When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

^{NIV} **Matthew 28:19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

^{NIV} **John 14:16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

^{NIV} **Acts 2:33** Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

4. Most controversies in the past and the present are associated with the doctrine of the Holy Spirit.
5. Holy Spirit has been so closely associated with *glossolalia*, miracle healing, sorcery, and charismatic movements that among the conservative main line denominations the subject has become a stigma.
6. At the same time correct understanding of this aspect of theology has transformative impact on our worship and behavior.

Doctrine => Worship=> Behavior

7. Contemporary society is spiritually hungry. They are looking for experiencing God not merely knowing him intellectually.
8. We live in a period when the work of the Holy Spirit is expected to be prominent.

B. Problems in Understanding

1. The revelations in the Bible on the Holy Spirit are less explicit than the other two persons in the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is always dealt indirectly.
2. There is lack of concrete imagery. For an example KJV uses the word Holy Ghost.
3. The functions given to the Holy Spirit in the Bible can be construed wrongly for a subservient status.

C. Highlights from the History

1. The earliest confession on the Holy Spirit is of Origen (c.184-254), who spoke of the Bible as “written by the Holy Spirit (Origen, *Against Celsus* 5.60).
2. Augustine (c.354-430) also said that the stimulations and recollections of the Scripture were prompted by the Holy Spirit (Augustine, *Harmony of the Gospel*, 2:30; 3.7).
3. By the end of second century, Clement of Rome (c.150-215) talked about the divinity of HS as par with the divinity of the Father and the Son (Clement of Rome, *The Epistle to the Corinthians* 58.2). Tertullian (c.160-220) called the HS as God (Tertullian, *Adversus Praxeam* 2, 3,8).
4. Devinations: Paul of Samosata equated the HS with grace being poured out on the apostles (J.N.D. Kelly, *Early Christian Doctrines*, 118). Irenaeus identified HS as the divine wisdom (Irenaeus, *Against Heresies*, 2.30.9). Origen affirmed that the HS was brought into existence, originated by the father through Christ (Origen, *Commentary*

on John 2.10.75)—tritheism (subordination of both the Son and the Spirit to the Father).

^{NIV} **John 1:3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

5. First Heresy: Athanasius (c.296-373) mentions of “Tropici” (group of persons) who professed that the HS was *heteroousios* from the Father and the Son. They based their belief on Heb. 1:4; Amos 4:13; Zech. 1:9; and I Tim 5:21.

^{NIV} **Hebrews 1:4** So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

^{NIV} **Amos 4:13** He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals his thoughts to man, he who turns dawn to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth-- the LORD God Almighty is his name.

^{NIV} **Zechariah 1:9** I asked, "What are these, my lord?" The angel who was talking with me answered, "I will show you what they are."

^{NIV} **1 Timothy 5:21** I charge you, in the sight of God and Christ Jesus and the elect angels, to keep these instructions without partiality, and to do nothing out of favoritism.

Athanasius was first to defend the sameness of the nature of the HS with that of the Father and the Son. His opposed Arius, who claimed that Christ is the first created being.

6. Gregory of Nazianzus reported as early as 380 A.D. regarding the verities of beliefs about the HS.
7. The differences between Eastern and Western Church: Eastern Church disagreed with Western addition in the Nicene Creed *filioque* (and from the Son) but they believed “from the Father through the Son.” This was one among other reasons that divided Eastern from the Western churches.
8. John Calvin’s understanding of the HS: How do we know that the Scripture is divinely inspired? The answer of the church was “Catholic church certifies the divinity of the Scripture,” but Calvin’s answer in contrast was “the inward witness of the HS is the ultimate basis for our confidence.” According to him the role of HS, according to Jesus’ teaching in John 14:26 was not to give a new revelation but only to illuminate and impress Jesus’ words.

^{NIV} **John 14:26** But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

9. Medieval (No emphasis on the HS)=> Reformation (*sola scriptura*) => Protestant Scholasticism (*rechte Lehre*, correct doctrine) => Enlightenment (Rationalism, HS was neglected and Deism emerged) => Romanticism (Neither beliefs [doctrine] nor behavior [ethics] but the Feeling constitutes the essence of religion. The main proponent was Friedrich Schleiermacher. He defined HS as the vital unity of the Christian Fellowship as a moral personality)

10. Modern Pentecost Movement in America: The historian reports about an outburst of *glossolalia* in North Carolina as early as 1896. In Topeka, Kansas, the head of Bible School Charles Parham declared the unanimous conclusion of their study that there is a Baptism of the HS subsequent to the conversion. A student named Agnes Ozman, after the laying of hand by Parham, prayed in several languages. Historians claim that this was the beginning of modern Pentecostal movement.
11. However, the real outbreak of Pentecostalism occurred in a meeting organized in a former Methodist Church at 312 Azusa Street in Los Angeles by William J. Seymour. This is known as Azusa Street Movement.
12. In 1980s, there was “Third Wave” which placed emphases on gifts of healing and the gifts of spiritual discernment. This is also known as “power evangelism.” The movement originated from a class “Signs and Wonders” taught at Fuller Seminary by John Wimber.

II. The Name “Holy Spirit” in the Bible

A. The Original Word

1. Heb: רוּחַ , rû^h. (Gen.1: 2))

Depending on its usage in the sentence and the context, the possible meanings are:

Spirit, wind, vapor, breeze, spirit, breath, soul, odor, life-spirit, breath of life, soul, frame of mind, courage, ill temper, the intellectual frame of mind, the spirit of Yahweh, the spirit of God, the holy spirit:

2. Greek: πνεῦμα, *pneuma* . (Gen. 1:2, LXX)

Depending on its usage in the sentence and the context, the possible meanings of the word pneu/ma are:

Spirit (of God), spirit (of human being), spirit (as opposed to flesh), spirit (of evil one), Wind, the breathing out of air, blowing, breath, disposition or way of thinking, attitude.

3. Greek: παράκλητος , *paracletos* (Jn.14: 26, 15: 26)

The possible meanings are: *one called alongside to help, as one who appears in another's behalf advocate, defender, intercessor, one who gives protection, help, and security helper, comforter, counselor*

B. The Name “Spirit of God”

Hebrew uses of noun as an adjective

1. Gen 1: 2 “And the Spirit of God was hovering” (wərû^{ah} ʾēlōhîm mərəḥēpēt)
2. Gen 6:3 “my spirit” (rûḥî)
3. Gen 41:38 “Spirit of God” (rû^{ah} ʾēlōhîm)
4. Gen 45:27 “Spirit of Jacob their father” (rû^{ah} yaʿāqōb)
5. Ex. 35: 31 filling of “Spirit of God” (rû^{ah} ʾēlōhîm)
6. Deut 34:9 filling of “Spirit of Wisdom” (rû^{ah} ḥokmā^h)
7. Judges 3:10 The Spirit of the Lord came (wattəhî ʿālāyw rû^{ah}-yhwh(ʾādōnāy)

C. The Trope for the Holy Spirit

1. Wind

John 3:8 => The **wind** blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

2. Breath

Ezekiel 37:6 => I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put **breath** in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD."

3. Counselor/ Comforter/ Advocate/ Helper

John 15:26 => When the **Counselor** comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

NIV (Counselor), KJV (Comforter), NRS (Advocate), NAS (helper)

4. The spirit of Truth/ Wisdom/ Counsel/ Power/ Knowledge

John 16:13 => But when he, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Isaiah 11:2 => The **Spirit** of the LORD will rest on him-- the **Spirit** of wisdom and of understanding, the **Spirit** of counsel and of **power**, the **Spirit** of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD--

5. Fire

Acts 2:3 => They saw what seemed to be tongues of **fire** that separated and came to rest on each of them.

6. Dove

Matthew 3:16 => As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a **dove** and lighting on him.

III. *The Person of the Holy Spirit*

A. Problems

1. Holy Spirit does not have personal name

Father = YHWH
Son = JESUS
Holy Spirit = ?

2. Holy Spirit is referred by neuter pronoun

For an example: John 14:17

¹⁷ τὸ πνεῦμα τῆς ἀληθείας, ὃ ὁ κόσμος οὐ δύναται λαβεῖν, ὅτι οὐ θεωρεῖ αὐτὸ οὐδὲ γινώσκει· ὑμεῖς γινώσκετε αὐτό, ὅτι παρ' ὑμῖν μένει καὶ ἐν ὑμῖν ἔσται.

τὸ definite article accusative neuter singular [masc accu sing τὸν]
πνεῦμα noun accusative neuter singular common

ὃ pronoun relative accusative neuter singular [ὃν]
αὐτὸ pronoun personal accusative neuter singular

[It is/ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept it/him, because it neither sees it/him nor knows it/him. But you know it/him, for it/she/he lives with you and will be in you]

3. Holy Spirit frequently lacks the definite article

Acts 2:4 καὶ ἐπλήσθησαν πάντες πνεύματος ἁγίου καὶ ἤρξαντο λαλεῖν ἑτέραις γλώσσαις καθὼς τὸ πνεῦμα ἐδίδου ἀποφθέγγεσθαι αὐτοῖς.

[Acts 2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.]

4. Neuter Pronouns are used to describe the Holy Spirit

The Language of Greek:

i) Neuter in Greek does not imply personhood or non-personhood.

For an example:

Matthew 9:33 Demon

δαιμονίου noun genitive neuter singular common

Matthew 2:11 Child

παιδίου noun accusative neuter singular common

ii) Personal pronoun must match the gender of the object.

iii) Bible does use masculine personal pronoun

For an example
John 16:12-14

C. The Holy Spirit has Knowledge and Intellect

Exodus 35:31 => and **he** has filled him with the **Spirit** of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts—

1 Chronicles 28:12 => He gave him the plans of all that the **Spirit** had put in his **mind** for the courts of the temple of the LORD and all the surrounding rooms, for the treasuries of the temple of God and for the treasuries for the dedicated things.

Neh.9: 20 => You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst.

Isaiah 11:2 => The **Spirit** of the LORD will rest on him-- the **Spirit** of wisdom and of understanding, the **Spirit** of counsel and of power, the **Spirit** of **knowledge** and of the fear of the LORD—

Romans 8:6 => The **mind** of sinful man is death, but the **mind** controlled by the **Spirit** is life and peace;

Romans 8:27 => And he who searches our hearts knows the **mind** of the **Spirit**, because the **Spirit** intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

1 Corinthians 2:10-12 => but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit **searches** all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one **knows** the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

D. The Holy Spirit has Volitional Faculty

1Cor.12: 11. 1 => Corinthians 12:11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

E. The Holy Spirit has Power

Judges 14:6 => The **Spirit** of the LORD came upon him in **power** so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done.

1 Samuel 10:6 => The **Spirit** of the LORD will come upon you in **power**, and you will prophesy with them; and you will be changed into a different person.

Acts1: 8 => But you will receive **power** when the Holy **Spirit** comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Romans 15:13 => May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the **power** of the Holy **Spirit**.

2 Timothy 1:7 => For God did not give us a **spirit** of timidity, but a **spirit** of **power**, of love and of self-discipline.

F. The Holy Spirit has Capacity to Love

Romans 5:5 => And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his **love** into our hearts by the Holy **Spirit**, whom he has given us.

Romans.15: 30 => I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the **love** of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.

Galatians 5:22 => But the fruit of the **Spirit** is **love**, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

2 Timothy 1:7 => For God did not give us a **spirit** of timidity, but a **spirit** of power, of **love** and of self-discipline.

G. The Holy Spirit has Emotions

Isaiah 63:10 => Yet they rebelled and **grieved** his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.

Ephesians 4:30 => And do not grieve the Holy **Spirit** of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Acts 5:3 => Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have **lied** to the Holy **Spirit** and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?

Hebrews 10:29 => How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has **insulted** the Spirit of grace?

Matthew 12:31 => And so I tell you, every sin and **blasphemy** will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

Galatians 4:6 => And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, **crying**, Abba, Father. (KJV)

H. The Holy Spirit Acts Like a Person

Acts 13:2 => While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit **said**, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have **called** them."

1 Corinthians 2:10 => but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit **searches** all things, even the deep things of God.

John 15:26 => "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will **testify** about me.

John 14:26 => But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will **teach** you all things and will **remind** you of everything I have said to you.

Romans 8:14 => because those who are **led** by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Romans 8:26 => In the same way, the Spirit **helps** us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit **himself intercedes** for us with **groans** that words cannot express.

Implications

Holy Spirit is not a force but a person.

He is relational. He is personal. What should be our response?

IV. The Deity of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is person but not human person. In other words he is person without form because he is divine person. Bible attributes Him as par with God the Father. However, some sees the deity of Holy Spirit in the economic trinity functioning in subordination. Some call him skinless Jesus. Some limits him

as the Spirit of God meaning spirit of God the Father. Others hesitate to pray to him or worship him. Still others have difficulty to place Holy Spirit any where near the throne of God the Father (Bible tells only Jesus being the right side of Him where is the Holy Spirit?).

Problems of the Apparent Subordination in the Economy of Godhead

John 14:26 => But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, **whom the Father will send** in my name, will teach you all things and **will remind you of everything I have said to you.**

John 15:26 => "When the Counselor comes, **whom I will send to you** from the Father, the Spirit of truth **who goes out from the Father**, he will **testify about me.**

Acts 16:7 => When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but **the Spirit of Jesus** would not allow them to.

Romans 8:9 => You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if **the Spirit of God** lives in you. And if anyone does not have **the Spirit of Christ**, he does not belong to Christ.

John 16:13 => But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He **will not speak on his own**; he **will speak only what he hears**, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Some heresies that emerged in trying to resolve the mystery:

Monarchianism/Adoptionism (United Pentecostal Church, Howard A Goss, 1945)
(God as one monarch, Jesus became Christ at His baptism, was adopted by the Father after his death)

Sabellianism/Modalism/Patrispassionism

(One God who reveals himself in three ways)

Arianism (Jehovah Witness, Unitarianism)

(Christ is the first created being, not of same substance with God)

Semi-Arianism

(Christ is similar in essence but subordinate to Father)

Macedonianism

(The Holy Spirit is created being)

Polytheism (Mormon, Joseph Smith, 1830) ?

Some Lingering Questions on Mystery:

How do we resolve some of the problem in the Bible?

Economic Trinity and the Immanent Trinity of God?

Impassibility vs Passibility of God?

The knowability of God in Open Theism?

How far the anthropomorphic language applied for God describes the identity of God?

Should we leave the mystery unresolved or try to answer them with the help of Bible or extra-biblical (Philosophical/scientific) knowledge?

Mystery Vs Perfect Resolution!

Mystery that leads to awe, adoration, and subordination

Solution often leads to confidence, absence of awe, independence, worship of an object less than God

Being aware of these issue now let us discuss

What the Holy Bible Says about the Deity of the Holy Spirit?

A. He is Holy

Luke 11:13 => If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the **Holy Spirit** (πνεῦμα ἅγιον) to those who ask him!"

Psalm 51:11 => Do not cast me from your presence or take your **Holy Spirit** (wərū^aḥ qoḏšəḵā) from me.

B. He is Eternal

Bible does not explicitly mention about the eternal state of the Holy Spirit because it assumes his divinity. However, we have one reference where an adjective “eternal” is used for the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 9:14 => How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the **eternal Spirit** (πνεύματος αἰωνίου) offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

C. He is Omnipotent

Job 26:13 => By his **breath** (KJV: **Spirit**/ בְּרוּחֹ) the skies became fair; his hand pierced the gliding serpent.

Genesis 1:2 => Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and **the Spirit of God was hovering** over the waters.

Not a direct reference but the potency of the Spirit can be better appreciated when we consider his role in creation.

Psalm 104:30 =>When you send **your Spirit, they are created**, and you renew the face of the earth.

Luke 1:35 => The angel answered, "The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and **the power of the Most High** will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

D. He is Omniscient

Ezekiel 11:5 => Then the **Spirit** of the LORD came upon me, and **he** told me to say: "This is what the LORD says: That is what you are saying, O house of Israel, but **I know** what is going through your mind

1 Corinthians 2:10 –11=> but God has revealed it to us by **his Spirit**. The **Spirit searches** all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God **except the Spirit of God**.

E. He is Omnipresent

Psalm 139:7-10 => Where can I go from **your Spirit**? Where can I flee from **your presence**? 8 If I go up to the heavens, **you are there**; if I make my bed in the depths, **you are there**. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 **even there** your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

F. He is Equal with other two Persons in Godhead

Matthew 28:19 => Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**,

2 Corinthians 13:14 => May the grace of the Lord **Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God**, and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all.

Romans 15:30 => I urge you, brothers, by our Lord **Jesus Christ** and by the love of the **Spirit**, to join me in my struggle by praying to **God** for me.

Acts 7:55 => But Stephen, full of the **Holy Spirit**, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of **God**, and **Jesus** standing at the right hand of **God**.

Acts 10:38 => how **God** anointed **Jesus** of Nazareth with the **Holy Spirit** and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because **God** was with him.

Ephesians 1:17 => I keep asking that the **God** of our Lord **Jesus** Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the **Spirit** of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

Implications:

In worship we ascribe the ultimate worthiness of the object of worship.
Can we worship the Holy Spirit, Jesus and the Father at the same time?
If yes, why? If no, why not?

V. The Work of the Holy Spirit

In the economy of God, the Holy Spirit has different and defined function. His functions are unique and in harmony with the revealed truth in the Holy Bible. Claiming any new revelation contrary to revealed truth as the work of the Holy Spirit is unscriptural.

Problem in our Understanding of God

What's the problem with the following true evangelical statement?

God of Islam is not the father of Jesus.

Christian God is different and unique God.

God of Christianity is the only true God.

Implications:

They are true and helpful statements for personal clarity but such statement do not embody the whole truth of the Bible and can cause unbiblical implications. It may promote the arrogance and unhelpful rivalry. Remember it is one thing to make correct and absolute statement it is another thing what others understand from it.

- Your God vs. my God, as if in reality there is more than one God.

- It may deny—the truth that God of the Bible is cosmic God who created the

whole humankind in his own image and his goodness prevails over all humanity irrespective of man-made religions and ethnicity—That His domain is universal—God of the Bible is the only source of All good Virtues and Truth

Job 12:23 => **He makes nations great, and destroys them; he enlarges nations, and disperses them.**

Psalms 47:7 => For God is **the King of all the earth**; sing to him a psalm of praise. 8 **God reigns over the nations**; God is seated on his holy throne.

Isaiah 10:5–13 => "Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of my anger, in whose hand is the club of my wrath! 6 I send him against a godless nation, I dispatch him against a people who anger me, to seize loot and snatch plunder, and to trample them down like mud in the streets. 7 **But this is not what he intends, this is not what he has in mind; his purpose is to destroy, to put an end to many nations.** 8 'Are not my commanders all kings?' he says. 9 'Has not Calno fared like Carchemish? Is not Hamath like Arpad, and Samaria like Damascus?' 10 As my hand seized the kingdoms of the idols, kingdoms whose images excelled those of Jerusalem and Samaria-- 11 shall I not deal with Jerusalem and her images as I dealt with Samaria and her idols?" 12 When the Lord has finished all his work against Mount Zion and Jerusalem, he will say, "**I will punish the king of Assyria for the willful pride of his heart and the haughty look in his eyes.** 13 For he says: "By the strength of my hand I have done this, and by my wisdom, because I have understanding. **I removed the boundaries of nations, I plundered their treasures; like a mighty one I subdued their kings.**

Daniel 2:21 => **He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.**

Acts 17:26 => From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and **he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live.**

^{NIV} **Acts 10:1** At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. ²He and all his family were **devout and God-fearing**; he gave generously to those in need and **prayed to God** regularly. ³One day at about three in the afternoon he had a vision. He distinctly saw **an angel of God**, who came to him and said, "Cornelius!" ⁴Cornelius stared at him in fear. "What is it, **Lord**?" he asked. The angel answered, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.

John 16:8-11 => When he comes, **he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin** and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; 10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

^{NIV} **1 Corinthians 8:1** Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. ³But the man who loves God is known by God. ⁴So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. ⁵For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), ⁶yet for us there is but one God, the

Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

Remember, Christian monotheistic belief in God is a belief that intends to bridge humanity with God and with each other as well. It is interesting to observe in the Bible, Jesus very rarely made any divisive statement related to Gentile religions, rather he often rebuked the dogmatically correct teachers belonging to his own faith because they separated themselves from the sinners and the Gentiles and they thought they believed correctly.

On the other hand,

What's the problem with the following liberal's over statements?

All religion worship same God

There is only one God but the ways are different (all roads leads to Rome)

Implication:

It collapses the difference between general revelation and the special revelation. It undermines the costly mission of God in Jesus Christ and the necessity of the special revelation. It fails to see the distinction between the Truth and its practices that are often adopted with limited human wisdom shaped by culture and time in history. It discounts the inspiration of the Holy Scripture and its power. It disregards what Gospel has done in the history of human civilization—emancipating humanity from darkness to light.

A. In the Common Grace of God

This Pneumatology of the common grace is based on the unity and the nature of the character of God. There is only one God. All truth is originated from the Truth. All good virtues are His virtues for God alone is good. The evil one can copy his good virtues but that does not mean he has good virtues.

The creator God cannot be confined to any ethnicity, culture, and religious practices. He is transcendent, the Lord of the universe and the maker of the history. He is the God of all causality. All good things are happening because he makes them happen. All evil things are happening because in his just administration he has permitted evil one to reign for a certain period of time.

B. In Creation and Preservation

Genesis 1:2 => Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit of God was hovering** over the waters.

Job 33:4 => The **Spirit of God has made** me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Psalms 104:30 => When you send your Spirit, they are **created**, and you **renew** the face of the earth.

C. In Carrying out Special Tasks for God

In the Old Testament, the spirit of God has “come and go” type of function. It was not a sustained ministry like he has in post-Pentecostal time. Individuals were empowered and enabled to perform supernatural activities with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Exodus 31:2 – 4 => "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 3 and I have **filled him with the Spirit of God**, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts-- 4 to make artistic

designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, 5 to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.

Judges 6:34 => Then the **Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon**, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him.

Judges 14:6 => The **Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power** so that he tore the lion apart with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done.

1 Samuel 16:13 –14 => So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on **the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power**. Samuel then went to Ramah. 14 Now **the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul**, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.

Psalms 51:11 => Do not cast me from your presence or **take your Holy Spirit from me**. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

John 14:16 => And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Counselor to be with you forever**—

D. In the Inspiration. (2Peter 1:21)

2 Peter 1:21 => For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were **carried along by the Holy Spirit**.

Revelation 14:13 => Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "**Write**: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the **Spirit**, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

E. In Repentance

Job 32:8 => But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him **understanding**.

Matthew 12:31 => And so I tell you, every **sin** and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the **Spirit** will not be forgiven.

1 John 5:16 => If anyone sees his brother commit a **sin** that does not lead to **death**, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose **sin** does not lead to **death**. There is a **sin** that leads to **death**. I am not saying that he should pray about that.

1 Corinthians 2:9-14 => However, as it is written: "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"-- 10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. 12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. 13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. 14 **The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him**, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

F. In Regeneration

John 3:5 => Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is **born** of water and the **Spirit**."

John 3:8 => The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone **born** of the **Spirit**."

Galatians 4:29 => At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. 30 But what does the Scripture say? "Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman's son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman's son."

G. In Sanctification

^{NAS} Romans 9:1 => I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience bearing me witness in the **Holy Spirit**,

^{NIV} **Romans 15:16** to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

^{NIV} **1 Thessalonians 5:23** May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

H. In Commissioning

^{NAS} Matthew 28:18 => And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and **the Holy Spirit**, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, **I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**" [How Jesus is with us always?]

^{NIV} Acts 8:29 => The **Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."**

^{NAS} Acts 13:4 => So, being **sent out by the Holy Spirit**, they went down to Seleucia and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Implications:

If the HS is at work among all religion, ethnicity, culture, and languages, what should be our attitude to them?

If the HS is a working spirit what should be our attitude to work? Should we not seek his partnership?

Is the HS is at work in my life in my day-to-day sanctification? Do we see Him in my faith—in my day to day to decision-making process?

VI. *The Gift(s) of the Holy Spirit.*

The first and foremost is the HS, who is the gift given freely to a believer of Jesus Christ.

^{NIV} **Acts 2:38** Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

But our focus here is the gifts received by virtue of receiving the HS in our life.

δωρεάν noun accusative feminine singular common

that which is given or transferred freely by one pers. to another, *gift, bounty*, of God

χάρισμα, ατος, τό (χαρίζομαι) that which is freely and graciously given, *favor bestowed, gift*

Problems:

1. The different ethos of gifts in the modern pragmatic culture as opposed to biblical times.
2. List of gifts are often limited according to our personal and communal needs, rather than the will of the giver. The concept of gift certificates allows us to dislike, return, and exchange the gifts, as opposed to cherish the gifts because of the person who gave.
3. The importance of gifts as opposed to the giver
4. What is the purpose of the gifts? Often abused by human possessive attitude. My gifts—I own it. I have a price tag for it. This is I do for living.
5. Problem with associating gift as a sign of qualification? Unless you speak in tongue you are not born again.

Which statement is correct?

Dog is dog because it barks,
or Dog barks because it is dog

Unless you perform a miracle you are not the anointed one. A pastor must be both gifted preacher and teacher. Minister of worship must be gifted with music.

6. Human tendency to think more in terms of JOB TO BE DONE, rather than gifts, either undermines or misplaces the gifts? Wrong persons in wrong places.
7. Human tendency to prefer one gift to the other? Gifts that associated with power and display are often more coveted than other gifts that need to be practiced in quietness. Perhaps this is because gifts are seen as means to personal gain.

Now, let us see what Bible has to say

A. The Varieties of Gifts

^{NAS} Hebrews 2:4 => God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and **by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.**

^{NAS} 1 Corinthians 12:4 => Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶ And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all *persons*.

B. The Importance of Gifts

Giver Vs Gifts? Which one is more important?

Why gifts are compared and often one is seen more important than the others?

^{NIV} **Ecclesiastes 3:13** That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil-- this is the gift of God.

^{NIV} **John 4:10** Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who (**giver**) it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

^{NIV} **1 Corinthians 7:7** I wish that all men were as I am. But **each man has his own gift from God**; one has this gift, another has that.

C. The Purpose of the Gifts

1 Cor 12:7-11=> But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good**.⁸ For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit;⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,¹⁰ and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues

^{NIV} 1 Corinthians 12:25 => so that there should be **no division in the body**, but that its parts should have **equal concern for each other**.

^{NIV} Ephesians 4:11=> It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,¹² **to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.**

^{NIV} **1 Peter 4:10** Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

D. The Gift of γλῶσση τις λαλεῖ (*glosse lalei*)

1 Corinthians 14:15 => So what shall I do? I will pray with my **spirit**, but I will also pray with my **mind**; I will sing with my **spirit**, but I will also sing with my **mind**.

^{NIV} 1 Corinthians 12:30=> Do all have gifts of healing? **Do all speak in tongues?** Do all interpret?

^{NIV} 1 Corinthians 14:4 => He who **speaks in a tongue edifies himself**, but he who prophesies edifies the church. [Notice the purpose of the gifts above]

^{NAS} 1 Corinthians 14:5=> Now **I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more** that you would prophesy; and **greater is one who prophesies** than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, **so that the church may receive edifying.**

E. Praying or Desiring the Gift

1 Cor 12:11=> But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually **just as He wills**.

^{NIV} 1 Corinthians 12:31 =>But **eagerly desire the greater gifts**. And now I will show you the most excellent way.

^{NIV} 1 Corinthians 14:1=> Follow the way of love and **eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.**

F. Gift must be Nurtured

^{NIV} **2 Timothy 1:6** For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

^{NIV} **1 Timothy 4:14** Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

Implications:

- Help one another to recognize one's gifts and accept your gift with appreciation.
- Recognize and appreciate each gift irrespective of its usage or display
- Ask how my gifts is helping others and of course self
- Value the Giver more than the gifts

VII. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

“Fruit” is an agricultural metaphor. In the nature, we see tree bears its fruit according to the nature of the tree. Fruit is not consumed by the tree itself but it consumed by others.

Problem:

1. It is not fruits but fruit.
2. Fruit is a metaphor that represents virtues of the Spirit manifested in a believer.
3. These fruit represent the nature of a tree but the tree still has dual nature—Already Vs Not Yet. So the discrepancy should be anticipated. This necessitates the practice of forbearance and kindness.
4. The quantity of its manifestation in a believer's life is not directly proportional to quanta of the HS present in his life, but it is inversely proportional to resistance exerted by the sinful nature of that believer.

Example: Weak believer
Black cat Vs white cat

A. Fruit Not Fruits

^{NAS} Galatians 5:22-23 => But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

=> All the nine fold characters characterize the fruit.

^{NIV} 1 Corinthians 13:4 => Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. ⁶ Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

B. The Degree of their Manifestations

^{NIV} 1 Corinthians 13:11 => When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

C. The Purpose of the Fruit

Two fold purposes:

For self

^{NIV} Galatians 5:24 => Those who belong to Christ Jesus have **crucified the sinful nature** with its passions and desires.

For others

^{NIV} Galatians 6:10=> Therefore, as we have opportunity, **let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.**

Implications:

1. Acknowledge that you are under construction
2. Also acknowledge that others are under construction and needs your love, patience, kindness, forbearance etc.
3. Be aggressive in your effort to reduce the resistance to the HS
4. Reading Galatians 2:20 in personal way might help as a reminder:

^{NIV} **Galatians 2:20** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

5. Be mindful of the purpose of the gifts

VIII. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Problems:

1. The revelation on the person and the work of the Holy Spirit in the OT is less explicit than the NT. And so are the teachings on the doctrine of Trinity.

Could it be because of the progressive nature of the revelation?

2. The term “Holy Spirit” is rarely employed in the OT but most common term is “the Spirit of God.” The Spirit of God could be interpreted as being simply a reference to the will, mind, or activity of God.

Could it be because Hebrew language uses noun as a genitive to function as an adjective? Example: “a man of righteousness” in place of “a righteous man.”

However, some NT references on the Holy Spirit clearly show the origin of the concept of from the OT. In Acts 2:16-21, Peter quotes Joel 2:16-32

^{NIV} **Joel 2:28** 'And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ³¹ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ³² And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

^{NIV} **Acts 2:16** No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

It is evident from this quotation that Peter read the Spirit of YHWH and understood it as the Holy Spirit.

A. Continuity in the New Testament

^{NIV} **Acts 1:16** and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus—

^{NIV} **Acts 4:25** You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?"

^{NIV} **Luke 4:18** "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, ²¹ and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

[^{NIV} **Isaiah 61:1** The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,]

^{NIV} **2 Peter 1:21** For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

B. Person of the Holy Spirit

1. A Partner in Creation

^{NIV} **Genesis 1:2** Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit of God was hovering** over the waters.

^{NIV} **Job 33:4** The Spirit of God has **made me**; the breath of the Almighty **gives me life**.

2. Intelligent, Volitional, and Emotional Being

^{NIV} **Nehemiah 9:20** You gave **your good Spirit to instruct them**. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst.

^{NIV} **Psalms 143:10** Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; **may your good Spirit lead me on level ground**.

^{NIV} **Isaiah 63:10** Yet they rebelled and **grieved his Holy Spirit**. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.

3. Moral Agent

^{NIV} **Isaiah 11:2** **The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him--** the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD--³ **and he will delight in the fear of the LORD**. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

^{NIV} **Isaiah 32:15** **till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high**, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest.

^{NIV} **Isaiah 32:16** Justice will dwell in the desert and righteousness live in the fertile field.¹⁷ The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever.¹⁸ My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.¹⁹ Though hail flattens the forest and the city is leveled completely,²⁰ **how blessed you will be, sowing your seed by every stream, and letting your cattle and donkeys range free**.

^{NIV} **Isaiah 44:3** For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out **my Spirit** on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.⁴ **They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams.**⁵ **One will say, 'I belong to the LORD'**; another will call himself by the name of Jacob; still another will write on his hand, 'The LORD's,' and will take the name Israel.

^{NIV} **Ezekiel 36:26** I will give you a new heart and **put a new spirit** in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.²⁷ And I will put **my Spirit** in you and **move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws**.²⁸ You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

C. Special Function

In the OT, the function of the Spirit of God is often depicted as some kind of “come and go” type of influence. Individuals were empowered and enabled to perform spectacular activities for special cause.

Exodus 31:2 – 4 => "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, ³ and I have **filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts--** ⁴ to make artistic

designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, 5 to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.

Judges 6:34 => Then the **Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon**, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him.

Judges 14:6 => The **Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power** so **that he tore the lion apart** with his bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither his father nor his mother what he had done.

^{NIV} **1 Samuel 10:10** When they arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he joined in their **prophesying**.

1 Samuel 16:13 –14 => So Samuel took the horn of oil and **anointed him** in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on **the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power**. Samuel then went to Ramah. 14 Now **the Spirit of the LORD had departed from Saul**, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him.

Psalms 51:11 => Do not cast me from your presence or **take your Holy Spirit from me**. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and **grant me a willing spirit**, to sustain me.

Zechariah 4:6 So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: '**Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,**' says the LORD Almighty.

^{NIV} **Genesis 41:38** So Pharaoh asked them, "Can we find anyone like this man, **one in whom is the spirit of God?**"

^{NIV} **Numbers 11:25** Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke with him, and **he took of the Spirit that was on him and put the Spirit on the seventy elders. When the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied, but they did not do so again.**

^{NIV} **Deuteronomy 34:9** Now Joshua son of Nun was filled **with the spirit of wisdom** because Moses had laid his hands on him. **So the Israelites listened to him** and did what the LORD had commanded Moses.

Implications

1. The teachings on the Holy Spirit in the OT and the NT have continuity. The apparent discontinuity is because of the progressive state of the revelation.
2. The Trinity of the God of the Bible is both economic and immanent.
3. In comparison to the OT times, the church has fuller revelation and the special ministry of the Holy Spirit is in effect. If this is so—A fortiori (how much more), we are blessed!

CONFESSION

Having studied the Person and the Work of the Holy Spirit as taught by the Holy Scripture (Bible) given to all mankind,

I believe, the necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit to make the death of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him/her repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ, and thus the regeneration and the initiation of the eternal life in him/her. I believe, the continuous indwelling and work of the Holy Spirit in the life of such a saved sinner, for

continuous transformation of his/her whole being towards the likeness of His son Jesus Christ. And I affirm the Apostolic Creed.