

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity, eternally proceeding from the Father through the Son. The Holy Spirit is the comforter promised by Jesus Christ, who unites us with the Father and the Son, and transforms us into the image of Christ. The Holy Spirit has the attributes of God, is equated with God and does work that only God does. The Holy Spirit is eternal, is everywhere present, and knows everything. When the Holy Spirit does something, God is doing it. When the Holy Spirit speaks, God is speaking. The Spirit always has something to do with the Father and Son. So, when speaking of the Father or the Son we do not exclude the Spirit, because the Spirit's the Spirit of the Father and the Son. Jesus' whole life was lived in intimate communion with the Holy Spirit. He was conceived by the Spirit in the womb of Mary, baptized with the Spirit, and on the cross fulfilled his sacrificial ministry to the Father in the Spirit. Jesus now ministers in the world by sending the Spirit who ministers in accordance with the finished work of Christ. The Holy Spirit was at work at creation and in the history of the world. The Spirit's ongoing ministry will eventually bring all creation to full maturity, harmony and perfection. He is the Lord and the giver of life. Apart from the Spirit, our Lord Jesus Christ can neither be known, loved or served. The Holy Spirit is the personal bond by which Jesus Christ unites us to himself. He is the teacher who opens our hearts to Christ, and the comforter who leads us to repentance. He is the liberator who frees our enslaved wills, empowering us to live joyfully and freely in Christ's service. By the working of the Spirit, our love, knowledge and service of Christ are inseparably related. We receive the Spirit by receiving the Word of God. As the midwife of the new creation, the Spirit arrives with the Word, frees us to hear, accept and trust in it as the Word of God, brings us to rebirth and assures us of eternal life. The Spirit nurtures, corrects and strengthens us with the pure spiritual milk of the Word. By the Spirit, we are conformed to the character of Christ, growing in faith, hope and love in personal and responsive relationship with the Father through the Spirit.