



Spirit of God

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 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- Genesis 1:1-2

We get it that God created. We get it that Jesus is the Son of God. What exactly is the Spirit of God? In Biblical circles we call God the trinity. He is three persons in one. One of those distinct persons is the Holy Spirit. How can a Spirit be a person? Do people hover over the waters like in Genesis? In a word search you will find that the Spirit of God is present in a ton of the Old Testament passages. This entity or person is not just in the New Testament. Yes, I get it that the Holy Spirit is more than one word. He is a big part of God in church vernacular.

“All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, 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 14:25

Much of what we know about the Spirit of God is found within the book of John. This gospel is riddled with spiritual themes. Many have asked if the Spirit is indeed a person? It's like this to me. The (Holy) Spirit is the essence of God. Some will even say a manifestation from Jesus. However, that does not totally explain Genesis 1. It does not explain many other passages. Try and think of it this way. God the Father is the head. Jesus the Son is the body. The Spirit or

essence of God is the character and actions of this whole body. They all are separate and distinct, yet one body.

With that said what is the Spirit of God? Jesus said this Spirit is a counselor. He is a teacher. This Spirit is also called an advocate. The Spirit searches the depths of God for wisdom and knowledge. This Spirit intercedes on our behalf. The Spirit of God is Gods connection between creation and God himself. Some will call the Spirit conviction or guilt. Others will say that it's the power of God to be wielded. It's just not that easy to pin down this entity called the Holy Spirit.

On that note, this Spirit is somehow sealed inside believers. This sealing is considered a mark of God. Those with this Spirit are considered children of the Lord most high. There is power in the Spirit. We can pray that the Spirit of God might help us. Some call on the Spirit for healing or miracles. Others say that through the Spirit we pray and God hears. A few people claim that they will speak in a special language through the Spirit called "in tongues." Either way, this Spirit has a pretty important role within God.

Matthew 28:19 says "*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*"

Clearly Jesus and the Gospel writers believed that God was a trinity. That God is the Father, Son, and Spirit. How do they work together? How do they work apart? Some things on this side of Heaven we will not get answers to. The Spirit of God was part of creation. He is part of us understanding God. This God is relational. Some claim God does not need us. If that were true then why create? Why have a Son or a Spirit? I suspect that he desires to be known. Desires to share himself.

With that said, we need all three. This God head is all wisdom and power. He is love in its purest form. He chose to become human in Jesus to know us better. To teach us better. However, I do believe that Jesus also came to introduce the Spirit. The miracles and ability to know distant information screams of something divine; something spiritual. Jesus would die but he called on the Spirit to replace him in. to reside within the believers. Jesus asked this Spirit to help and guide. How can a soul (or essence) be combined with flesh to make a person? Equally how can flesh know a spiritual God? The essence or Spirit of God?

Somehow God wanted to reach us. He walked with Adam and Eve. God spent time with Moses. Throughout history, God has communicated through people. Sometimes in the Old Testament the Spirit came upon people to do great things. In the new Testament, this Spirit is breathed on the disciples by Jesus just like God beathed life into the dust and made humans. Tongues of fire came down from heaven in Acts 2 and the Spirit of God did more than just come upon people. He indwelled within them. The Spirit of God is our new lifeline to God. A mark that tells the world we are his children. That's my best shot at what The Spirit of God is.