

The Easy Bible Truth



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The Holy Spirit

The word “**spirit**” is used in the Bible to describe **God’s invisible power** which radiates from Him throughout the universe to sustain all His wonderful Creation. The basic meaning of the word “spirit” is “**breath**” or “**wind**”. We know both of these things to be very real, but we cannot see them. However, we can see their effects in the sustaining of life in all living creatures and in the rustling of leaves on a tree.

We learn from the Bible that God is Spirit. He is a glorious Spirit-Being and His Spirit Power radiates from Him just as light radiates from the sun, or heat from a fire. It fills the heavens and the earth, and by His Spirit, He is able to be everywhere present at all times. The prophet Jeremiah records these words... “*Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him, saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD*” Jer.23:24.

Many Old Testament miracles included the wonderful work of God’s Creation. Genesis 1:2,3... “*The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God** moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*” When praising God, the man Job said... “*By his spirit he hath garnished [adorned] the heavens*” Job 26:13. Here Job is talking about the Creation of the heavenly bodies, the sun, moon and stars.

God’s Spirit is His Power by which he sustains all things and keeps man alive... “**The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life**” Job.33:4.

The Holy Spirit is the **same** Spirit power of God **set apart for a special purpose**. An example from the Old Testament is that of Samson... “*And **the Spirit of the LORD** came mightily upon him, and he rent him [a lion] as he would have rent a kid [goat]*” Judges 14:5,6. Other miracles were also performed by God’s servants who were empowered by His Spirit. It is referred to as “**Holy Spirit**” in both Old and New Testaments, but more frequently in the New. [In the King James version, it reads “Holy Ghost”. “Ghost” is not a good modern translation of the original Hebrew and Greek words. “Ghost” should always be read as “Spirit” as it appears in later versions of the Bible.]

In the New Testament, one of the first uses of the Holy Spirit is in connection with the miraculous manner in which Jesus was conceived by his mother, Mary, who was a virgin... “*And the angel answered and said unto her, **The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee**, and **the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee**; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God*” Luke 1:35.

Jesus was given the power of the Holy Spirit by God his Father... “*And the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him*” Luke 3:22. Jesus used this power of the Holy Spirit to perform the many miracles recorded in the Gospel records **which demonstrated that his teachings were approved by God**... “*Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you*” Acts 2:22.

In the first century, Christ’s apostles and others were also given the gift of the Holy Spirit for the same purposes. This included **the writing of the New Testament scriptures** and the establishment of the Christian religion which has become of **vital importance** to all succeeding generations, including our own.

Before he ascended to heaven after his death and resurrection, Jesus said to his disciples who were gathered in Jerusalem... “*Wait for the promise of the Father which...ye have heard of me*” Acts 1:4. Jesus was referring to his words in John 14 where the Holy Spirit is personified... “*But **the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall **teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.***” [This does not mean that the Holy Spirit is a real person or the third person of a “trinity” but is a figure of speech just like wisdom is referred to as a woman, Proverbs 3:13-18].

Through the power of the Holy Spirit the complete Bible, both the Old and the New Testaments were written... “*For the prophecy came not in old times by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit***” 2 Peter 1:21. “**All scripture is given by inspiration of God**” 2 Timothy 3:16.

Christ’s followers now have the Bible, the Word of God, given by the Holy Spirit to guide and teach them. “*From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, **which are able to make thee wise unto salvation***” 2 Timothy 3:15.

People today do not have the gift of the Holy Spirit as the need for it has been fulfilled. Once the apostles, who possessed the power to pass on the Holy Spirit died during the first century, the Holy Spirit gradually ceased to be possessed by man. However, it is part of the reward in prospect for those who are found worthy and are granted immortality at the return of Christ to the earth.