

# *C R E D O*

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Exploring The Christian Faith



## 2 Cor. 9

<sup>6</sup> Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

## 2 Cor. 9

<sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

## 2 Cor. 9

<sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

# 2 Cor. 9

<sup>9</sup> As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the  
poor;  
their righteousness endures forever.”

## 2 Cor. 9

<sup>10</sup> Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

## 2 Cor. 9

<sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

## 2 Cor. 9

<sup>12</sup> This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.



## 2 Cor. 9

<sup>13</sup> Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

## 2 Cor. 9

<sup>14</sup> And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!



# Pneumatology in History

- While the Holy Spirit is critical to our understanding of all of the doctrines of the faith, the Church has historically said very little dogmatically about the Holy Spirit in comparison to other major doctrines of the Christian faith.

# Pneumatology in History

- The Holy Spirit is a distinct person within the Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit is coequal, coeternal, and sharing substance with the Father and the Son.
- The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father in some way (and from the Son if you prefer).
- But little else is declared as dogma.

# Pneumatology in History

- Pneumatology has historically been a difficult subject for the Church.
- Gregory Nazianzus The subject of the Holy Spirit presents a special difficulty, because by the time we get to it we are “worn out by the multitude of questions.” - Fifth Oration, *On the Holy Spirit*

# Pneumatology

- Person of the Holy Spirit
- Work of the Holy Spirit

# Some Images of the Holy Spirit

- **Clothing**

- Luke 24.49 “but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” (Gk, *enduo*, “clothed with”)

- **Dove**

- Mt 3:16, “like a dove” symbol of peace

- **Pledge**

- 2 Co 1:22 Gk. *arrabon*, “deposit, down payment” Eph 1:4

- **Fire**

- Acts 2:3, demonstrating the presence and approval of God (Ex 3:2)



# Some Images of the Holy Spirit

- Oil
  - Zech 4:1-14, empowers, illuminates and cleanses
- Seal
- 2 Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30 denotes ownership-security
- Water Jn 7:37-38, Overflowing presence
- Wind Jn 3:8, Sovereign moving (1 Cor 12:11)

# Person of the Holy Spirit

- *Ruach* is feminine; *pneuma* is neuter.
- As with God the Father, we assume the Spirit doesn't have gender.
- Referred to as "he" (John 16:13) and "who" (Eph. 1:14).
- Holy Spirit is a person not a force.

# Holy Spirit as *Parakletos*

- Jesus is called *parakletos* in 1 John 2:1.
- The Spirit is another *parakletos* of the same kind as Jesus (John 14:16-17).
- Will return to this later

# Personhood of the Holy Spirit (cont.)

- The Spirit has intellect.
  - Can be lied to (Acts 5:3-4).
  - Engages in deliberations with church -- “it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us” (Acts 15:28).
  - Expresses our longings to God (Rom. 8:26-27)
  - Communicates God’s thoughts to us (1 Cor. 2:10-14).

# Personhood of the Holy Spirit (cont.)

- The Spirit has emotions.
  - Communicates God's love to us (Rom. 5:5).
  - Can be grieved (Eph. 4:30) or "outraged" or insulted (Heb. 10:29).

# Personhood of the Holy Spirit (cont.)

- The Spirit has will.
  - Distributes gifts as he wills (1 Cor. 12:11).
  - Can be avoided or resisted (Acts 7:51).
- The Spirit mediates God's personal presence in us (1 John 3:24) -- couldn't be done by an impersonal force.

# Divinity of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit is God
- Gregory Nazianzen (*Orat.* XLI.9)
  - “Always existed, and exists, and always will exist, who neither had a beginning, nor will have an end... perfecting, not being perfected; sanctifying, not being sanctified; deifying, not being deified...Life and Life-giver; Light and Light-giver; absolute Good, and Spring of Goodness...by whom the Father is known and the Son is glorified....”

# Divinity of the Holy Spirit

- Spoken of in parallel with God (1 Cor. 3:16-17, temple); Acts 5:3-4
- Mentioned with Father and Son in Trinitarian formulas (Mt. 28:18-20; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 1 Pet. 1:2).
- Called eternal (Heb. 9:14; cf. 1:10-12, of God).
- Said to know everything, even the depths of God (1 Cor. 2:10-11).



# Divinity of the Holy Spirit

- “Spirit of God” and “Spirit of Christ” = Holy Spirit
- Rom 8:9-11 uses three terms:
  - “Spirit of God” (v. 9)
  - “Christ is in you” (v. 10, via the Holy Spirit)
  - “Spirit of Him” (Father, v. 11)
- Rom 8:13-14 Prove “Spirit” and “Spirit of God” is 3<sup>rd</sup> person of Trinity

# Divinity of the Holy Spirit

- Agent in creation and regeneration and resurrection (Gen. 1:2; John 3:5-8; Rom. 1:4).
- The Spirit can be sinned against. (Matt. 12:30-32; Mk. 3:27-28; Luke 10:12)
- The Spirit can be resisted (Acts 7:51).
- The Spirit can be quenched (1 Thess. 5:19).
- The Spirit's aid in the Christian life can be refused (Gal. 3:2-3).
- The Spirit can be grieved by sin (Eph. 4:30).

# Holy Spirit and the Trinity

- The Spirit is closely identified with the Father and especially with the exalted Christ.
- Paul parallels “the Spirit,” “the Spirit of God,” “the Spirit of Christ” and “Christ” (Rom. 8:9-11).
- For Paul, being “in Christ” and “in the Spirit” refer to the same reality (Rom. 8:1; Phil. 2:1).
- Sometimes Christ and the Spirit are directly identified: “The Lord is the Spirit” (2 Cor. 3:17-18).

# Holy Spirit and the Trinity

- The Spirit is distinguished from the Father and the Son.
- All three persons appear at Jesus' baptism (Matt. 3:16-17; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 3:21-22).
- Jesus had to go away in order for the Spirit to come (John 16:7).
- The Spirit testifies to Christ (John 15:26) and glorifies the risen Christ (Acts 19:17; 1 Cor. 12:3; Phil. 3:3; John 16:14) and transforms believers into Christ's likeness (2 Cor. 3:17-18).

# Going Deeper with the “another-ness” of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17)

- What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to be another?
- Same or similar to: Does for us what Jesus would do if he were here in the flesh.
- Different from: There is a distinction and/or difference between Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

# Pneumatology Term

- Perichoresis – from Gregory Nazianzen
- It is the image of the dance. Translated by the Latin “circumincession.”
- “It allows the individuality of the persons to be maintained, while insisting that each person shares in the life of the other two. An image often used to express this idea is that of a 'community of being,' in which each person, while maintaining its distinctive identity, penetrates the others and is penetrated by them.”

- Alister McGrath, *Christian Theology: An Introduction*, 3rd ed. Blackwell, 2001, 325.

# Pneumatology: Work of the Holy Spirit

# Work of the Holy Spirit

- The role of the H.S. is more pivotal than most Christians realize.
- Creation



# Work of the Holy Spirit

- Provides Scripture
- Applies salvation
- Empowers for the Christian life
- Constitutes the Church
- Bringing everything to completion

# Work of the Holy Spirit: Salvation

- The H.S. takes God's word and work from "for Us" (Christology) to "in Us" (Pneumatology)

# Spirit's Role in Scripture

- Inspiration
- Canonization
- Preservation
- Illumination

# Spirit in Personal Salvation

- Conviction of sin
- Call
- Illumination
- Enablement

# Tom Oden

- Whatever grasp one may have of God's revelation is always enabled by the Spirit. In whatever ways sinners are empowered to overcome the corrupting aspects of the world, the flesh, and the adversary, they do so by the power of the Spirit. The Spirit leads the faithful into all truth by pointing constantly toward the truth embodied in Jesus." (3)

# His works confirm Personality

- The Spirit **teaches** or **exhorts** – Jn 14:16,26
- The Spirit **testifies** – Jn 15:26 “he will testify of me.” Same word in Jn 15:27, disciples will testify.
- The Spirit **guides** – Jn 16:24
- The Spirit **convicts** – Jn 16:8, “convince someone of something, point something out”
- The Spirit **regenerates** – Jn 5:21
- The Spirit **intercedes** – Rom 8:26
- The Spirit **commands** – Acts 13:2, 4; 16:6

# Work of the Holy Spirit: Enabling the Christian Life

- The Spirit indwells believers (John 14:16-17; 1 Cor. 6:19).
- Intercedes for us (Rom. 8:26-27).
- Empowers us for witness (Mark 13:11; John 15:26-27; Acts 1:8).
- Illumines believers (guides them into truth) and glorifies the Son (John 16:13-14).
- Enables believers to resist sin (Rom. 8:5-6).

# Work of the Holy Spirit: Enabling the Christian Life

- Produces fruit of Christ-like character (Gal. 5:22-23).
- Makes us holy (1 Pet. 1:2).
- Gives assurance that believers are God's children (Rom. 8:15-16).
- Transforms us into Christ's likeness (Rom. 8:10-11; 2 Cor. 3:17-18).
- Gives assurance of our future resurrection (Rom. 8:11).



# Work of the Holy Spirit: Enabling the Christian Life

- Restraint of sin such that repentance is possible
- Conviction of Sin
- Repentance
- Faith
- Regeneration (John 3.3-8, 6.63, Titus 3.5)
- Indwelling (John 14.17, Rom. 8.9,11, I Cor. 3. 16, 6.19)
- Baptism (I Cor. 12.13)
- Empowering (Rom. 8.13, Gal. 5.17-18, 22-23)

# Work of the Holy Spirit: Enabling the Christian Life

- Sealing (2 Cor. 1.11, Eph. 1.13, 4.30, Rom 8.16)
- Assurance
- Filling (Eph. 5.18, Acts 4.8, 31, 6.3, 9.17, 11.24, 13.9)
- Guiding Gal. 5.16, 25, Acts 8.29, 13.2, 15.7-9, 16.1, Rom. 8.14)
- Sanctification
- Glorification
- Teaching (Jn 14.26, 16.23, 1 John 2.20,27)

# Work of the Holy Spirit: Church

- Creates the believing community (1 Cor. 12:13).
- Indwells the church corporately (1 Cor. 3:16).
- Inspired the Scriptures (John 14:26).
- Guides the church (Acts 15:28).
- Gives gifts to the church to build it up (1 Cor. 12:4-11; see also Rom. 12 and Eph. 4).
- “The Spirit teaches, leads, and empowers the church on the Lord’s behalf” (Grenz, 484).

# Work of the Holy Spirit: Consummation

- He is the eschatological creator Spirit involved in both original creation and new creation.
- Idea of “earnest” or “downpayment” or “deposit” or “firstfruits”: Through his work in our lives, he assures us that the fullness of God’s eschatological promises will come.



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