

## Slow Religion Holy Spirit/Pentecost Classes



### Acts 1 (NRSV)

#### The Promise of the Holy Spirit

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning 2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. 3 After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. 4 While staying[a] with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

#### The Ascension of Jesus

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

### Acts 2 (NRSV)

#### The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

### Peter Addresses the Crowd

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel<sup>1</sup>:

17 ‘In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that **I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,**  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.  
18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women,  
in those days **I will pour out my Spirit;**  
and they shall prophesy.  
19 And I will show portents in the heaven above  
and signs on the earth below,  
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.  
20 The sun shall be turned to darkness  
and the moon to blood,  
before the coming of the Lord’s great and glorious day.  
21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

22 “You that are Israelites,[a] listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth,[b] a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— 23 this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. 24 But God raised him up, having freed him from death,[c] because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. 25 For David<sup>2</sup> says concerning him,

‘I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover my flesh will live in hope.  
27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
28 You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’

29 “Fellow Israelites,[d] I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Foreseeing this, David[e] spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah,[f] saying,

‘He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.’

32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. **33 Being therefore exalted at[g] the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear.** 34 For David<sup>3</sup> did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,  
“Sit at my right hand,

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<sup>1</sup> The Book of Joel 2:28-32 Joel’s announcement of YHWH’s signs and wonders. The spirit or wind poured out can refer to the seasonal wind that divides summer from the rainy season in Israel; or the parting of the Red Sea in Exodus; or that the spirit will fall on people in ecstatic or prophetic fervor – available to all Israelites.

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 16:8-11

<sup>3</sup> Psalm 110: 1 and 1 Cor 15:25

35 until I make your enemies your footstool.”

36 Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah,[h] this Jesus whom you crucified.”

### **The First Converts**

37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers,[i] what should we do?” 38 Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” 40 And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” 41 So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

### **Life among the Believers**

43 Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and had all things in common; 45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds[j] to all, as any had need. 46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home[k] and ate their food with glad and generous[l] hearts, 47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

### **Footnotes:**

Acts 1:4 Or eating

Acts 1:5 Or by

Acts 1:13 Or the brother of

Acts 1:15 Gk brothers

Acts 1:16 Gk Men, brothers

Acts 1:18 Or swelling up

Acts 1:25 Other ancient authorities read the share

Acts 2:22 Gk Men, Israelites

Acts 2:22 Gk the Nazorean

Acts 2:24 Gk the pains of death

Acts 2:29 Gk Men, brothers

Acts 2:31 Gk he

Acts 2:31 Or the Christ

Acts 2:33 Or by

Acts 2:36 Or Christ

## Commentary on the Book of Acts

### Bibliography for Following Notes

Raymond E. Brown, An Introduction to the New Testament  
Raymond E. Brown, The Churches the Apostles Left Behind  
Harper Collins Study Bible  
The Oxford Bible Commentary  
The Oxford Annotated NRSV Bible  
NT Wright, Acts Part 1 For Everyone

### Summary from Notes

#### Overview

The Pentecost Holy Spirit rests on a foundation of the Hebrew Bible, the Gospel of Mark, Source Q, the Gospel of St. Luke and the Book of Acts.



The Book of Acts is a continuation of the Gospel of St. Luke, same authorship, same time period for writing, and same early audience.

Luke contrasts the Gospel of St. Luke with the Book of Acts by saying the Gospel is everything Jesus did up to his ascension, and the **Book of Acts is what the Disciples did with the Holy Spirit** after receiving it. What Jesus began is continued through the same Spirit working through the apostles.

### Acts 1

1:5 The apostles are told by Jesus Christ before his ascension to wait in Jerusalem until their baptism with the Holy Spirit as promised by JohnBap<sup>4</sup>.

1:7 Jesus is telling them it is not important for them to know the times or the seasons, i.e. when the end time will come. This firm answer was essential for the composition of Acts in the 80's. If the end time was coming immediately, it would not be sensible to write a book for future readers.

#### 2 Fundamental facts about Acts:

1. It is based on the resurrection of Jesus; and Jesus is not a spirit or ghost, he is more embodied not less. His transformed body is now the beginning of God's new creation; and heaven and earth have come together in a new way. The resurrection of the Jesus who died under the weight of the evil and sin in the world, is the foundation for the new world.
2. The Holy Spirit's power – and people are now baptized in the Holy Spirit – which caused a renewal for the whole world, everyone, not just the Jews.

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<sup>4</sup> Luke 3:15-17 (NRSV) 15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,[a] 16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with[b] the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Footnotes:

Luke 3:15 Or the Christ

Luke 3:16 Or in

1:6-8 The dream of the kingdom is now being transformed through the resurrection – it is no longer an earthly kingdom – it is kingdom of spirit – the disciples now must become heralds and go out and tell the good news to the ends of the earth. But they need to wait for the Holy Spirit to come over them.

## Acts 2

2:1-36 Pentecost, 50 days after Passover. The plausible historical nucleus of the coming of the Spirit is that on the next pilgrimage feast after Jesus' death and resurrection. His Galilean disciples and his family came to Jerusalem and that, while they were there, the presence of the Spirit was charismatically manifested as they began to speak in tongues. This was a sign that they should proclaim publicly what God has done in Jesus.

2:1-13 The Coming of the Holy Spirit is promised in Luke 24:49<sup>5</sup> and Acts 1:4-5<sup>6</sup>.

Pentecost is a commemoration of God's giving the covenant to Israel in Sinai, the moment when Israel was called to be God's own people.

Exodus 19 depicts God's appearance in Sinai and thunder and smoke. The Jewish writer Philo describes angels taking what God said to Moses on the mountain top and carrying it out on tongues to the people on the plain below.

Acts with its description of the wind and tongues of flame echoes that imagery and thus presents Pentecost in Jerusalem as the renewal of God's covenant, once more calling a people to be God's own.

Wind and fire, sight and sound, are associated with God's self-revelation in the Hebrew Bible. (Ex 19:16-19<sup>7</sup>; 1 Kings 19:11-12<sup>8</sup>; Isa 6:6<sup>9</sup>) The Spirit and Wind are the same word, Ruach in Hebrew. The image of fire links with Spirit's work of judgement (Luke 3:16-17<sup>10</sup>).

2:3-4 The metaphor of the tongues of fire links with the fact that the result of this manifestation of divine power is inspired speech.

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<sup>5</sup> Luke 24:49 (NRSV) 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

<sup>6</sup> Acts 1:4-5 (NRSV) 4 While staying[a] with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>7</sup> Exodus 19:16-19 (NRSV) 16 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain, and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled. 17 Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God. They took their stand at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the Lord had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently. 19 As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder.

<sup>8</sup> 1 Kings 19:11-12 (NRSV) 11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

<sup>9</sup> Isaiah 6:6 (NRSV) 6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

<sup>10</sup> Luke 3:16-17 (NRSV) 16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with[a] the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Footnotes: Luke 3:16 Or *in*

2:5-13 The essentially private, within the community, experience in the house, quickly becomes a public experience when a crowd gathers at the sound of the multitudinous voices speaking different languages. The first proclamation is a divinely inspired event which draws a curious audience: some hear confused babble of voices; others hear each in their own dialect --- a proclamation of God's greatest deed.

The gift of the Spirit is the direct result, and proof, of Jesus exaltation to heaven. Luke shares the conviction that the departure of Jesus was a pre-condition for the coming of the Spirit.

What does this mean? (NT Wright)

1. God intended Jesus to die at the climax of his rescue mission to earth;
2. The intentions and actions that sent Jesus to his death were desperately wicked
3. God knows how powerful evil is in the world and had long planned to nullify its power by taking on the force himself, in the person of the Messiah, the man in whom God himself would be embodied.

Peter launches the early Christians on a collision course with the authorities:

1. Jesus is the true King, which means his followers need no longer view earthly authorities as absolute.
2. The Jewish and Roman authorities were responsible for Jesus death. (Both chosen people and pagans) – and their power is now called into question and the only thing they can do now is repent.

The Good News, Gospel, is that Jesus with his resurrection has demonstrated that he is the Messiah and Lord, and through his death and resurrection have dealt a blow against evil.

2:37-41 Repeating JohnBap's message they are called to repent. God has brought forward what was promised for the future. It is available now. The kingdom of God.

2:37-41 The crowd asks what should they do – Peter replies in the classic four steps of the early Christian movement:

1. Repentance
2. Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ
3. Forgiveness
4. Gift of the Spirit

This is available to everyone not just the elite.

This leads to the exponential growth of the church through new converts.

2:42-27 The four elements of the early church:

1. The apostles teaching
2. The common life of those who believed
3. The breaking of bread
4. Prayer

**Questions:**

1. Who/What is the Holy Spirit?
2. What is the Holy Spirit's role in the world?
3. How do we learn to identify and respond to the Holy Spirit in us?

## Details from Notes

### Harper Collins Study Bible Notes<sup>11</sup>

1:1-11 Acts opens with instruction of the apostles by the risen Jesus Christ and three promises: the gift of the Holy Spirit; the spread of their witness to the ends of the earth; and the eventual return of Jesus.

2:1-13 The Coming of the Holy Spirit is promised in Luke 24:49<sup>12</sup> and Acts 1:4-5<sup>13</sup>.

2:1 Pentecost<sup>14</sup> is a Jewish festival 50 days after Passover. All together in one place – presence of full 120 disciples and followers.

2:3 On seeing tongues of fire – fire accompanies the divine presence in the OT and divine judgement.

2:4 Other languages – refers to the gift of speaking in languages other than one's own and contrasts with speaking in tongues or ecstatically that Paul describes 1 Cor 14:1-25 which requires interpretation.

2:5 Devout Jews from every nation. Luke is very specific, the Gospel has not yet been extended to non-Jews. That will happen with Cornelius in Acts 10:1-11:8. He hints at the globalization by saying Jews of every nation. But the Pentecost experience is aimed at Jews specifically.

2:32 Luke views witnessing as a defining characteristic of the apostles task.

2:33 Here the Holy Spirit is poured out by the ascending Jesus, but earlier it is identified as God's promise. (Acts 1:4-5)

2:38 The desired response to Christian proclamation includes repentance, baptism, forgiveness of sins, and reception of the Holy Spirit.

2:39 What is promised is the gift of the Holy Spirit and the salvation promised to Israel and offered by Jesus.

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<sup>12</sup> Luke 24:49 (NRSV) 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

<sup>13</sup> Acts 1:4-5 (NRSV) 4 While staying[a] with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with[b] the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

<sup>14</sup> Leviticus 23:15-21 (NRSV) The Festival of Weeks

15 And from the day after the sabbath, from the day on which you bring the sheaf of the elevation offering, you shall count off seven weeks; they shall be complete. 16 You shall count until the day after the seventh sabbath, fifty days; then you shall present an offering of new grain to the Lord. 17 You shall bring from your settlements two loaves of bread as an elevation offering, each made of two-tenths of an ephah; they shall be of choice flour, baked with leaven, as first fruits to the Lord. 18 You shall present with the bread seven lambs a year old without blemish, one young bull, and two rams; they shall be a burnt offering to the Lord, along with their grain offering and their drink offerings, an offering by fire of pleasing odor to the Lord. 19 You shall also offer one male goat for a sin offering, and two male lambs a year old as a sacrifice of well-being. 20 The priest shall raise them with the bread of the first fruits as an elevation offering before the Lord, together with the two lambs; they shall be holy to the Lord for the priest. 21 On that same day you shall make proclamation; you shall hold a holy convocation; you shall not work at your occupations. This is a statute forever in all your settlements throughout your generations.

### Raymond E. Brown<sup>15</sup> Notes

Luke contrasts the Gospel of St. Luke with the Book of Acts by saying the Gospel is everything Jesus did up to his ascension, and the Book of Acts is what the Disciples did with the Holy Spirit after receiving it. What Jesus began is continued through the same Spirit working through the apostles.

1:5 The apostles are to wait in Jerusalem until their baptism with the Holy Spirit as promised by JohnBap<sup>16</sup>.

1:7 Jesus is telling them it is not important for them to know the times or the seasons, i.e. when the end time will come. This firm answer was essential for the composition of Acts in the 80's. If the end time was coming immediately, it would not be sensible to write a book for future readers.

1:8 A synopsis of the travel and the expansion of the church in the book of Acts – and the book will end in Rome. This is presented as Jesus' words, but it goes on to show that the apostles had no idea what this meant. It shows that the writer/evangelist, writing 50 years later attributes it to Jesus to explain the expansion of the church.

2:1-36 Pentecost, 50 days after Passover. The plausible historical nucleus of the coming of the Spirit is that on the next pilgrimage feast after Jesus' death and resurrection his Galilean disciples and his family came to Jerusalem and that, while they were there, the presence of the Spirit was charismatically manifested as they began to speak in tongues. This was a sign that they should proclaim publicly what God has done in Jesus.

Pentecost is a commemoration of God's giving the covenant to Israel in Sinai, the moment when Israel was called to be God's own people.

Exodus 19 depicts God's appearance in Sinai and thunder and smoke. The Jewish writer Philo describes angels taking what God said to Moses on the mountain top and carrying it out on tongues to the people on the plain below.

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### Oxford Bible Commentary<sup>17</sup> Notes

1:5 Jesus is addressing the disciples directly about the gift of the Gospel, and the gift of the Holy Spirit, which has marked Jesus status during the period of his earthly ministry. The Holy Spirit is about to be extended from Jesus to his followers and the Book of Acts will spell out what this means.

2:1-47 The first big scene of the book is a major theophanic<sup>18</sup> event, the coming of the Spirit (2:1-4), followed by crowd reactions (2:5-13) then Pete's speech is a theological interpretation of the event (2:14-36); which triggers reactions and results (2:37-42) and closes with a transitional summary of the church's growth (2:43-47)

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<sup>15</sup> Raymond E. Brown, An Introduction to the New Testament

<sup>16</sup> Luke 3:15-17 (NRSV) 15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,[a] 16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with[b] the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Footnotes:

Luke 3:15 Or the Christ

Luke 3:16 Or in

<sup>17</sup> The Oxford Bible Commentary

<sup>18</sup> Theophany is the appearance of a deity to a human. This term has been used to refer to appearances of the gods in the ancient Greek and Near Eastern religions



2:1-4 In the Book of Acts, the coming of the Holy Spirit, like the death and resurrection of Jesus, is a definite event, located in a particular time and place and describable in empirical terms with eye witnesses.

Pentecost as a Jewish holiday and then as a Holy Spirit event: The Jewish holiday celebrates a theophanic event in Sinai, and the Holy Spirit event is a theophanic event for the new Christian community. Having all of the early church in the same place, at the same time as this event emphasizes the spiritual unity of the community going forward. (They have a shared experience.)

Wind and fire, sight and sound, are associated with God's self-revelation in the Hebrew Bible. (Ex 19:16-19<sup>19</sup>; 1 Kings 19:11-12<sup>20</sup>; Isa 6:6<sup>21</sup>) The Spirit and Wind are the same word, Ruach in Hebrew. The image of fire links with Spirit's work of judgement (Luke 3:16-17<sup>22</sup>).

2:3-4 The metaphor of the tongues of fire links with the fact that the result of this manifestation of divine power is inspired speech.

2:5-13 The essentially private, within the community, experience in the house, quickly becomes a public experience when a crowd gathers at the sound of the multitudinous voices speaking different languages. The first proclamation is a divinely inspired event which draws a curious audience: some hear confused babble of voices; others hear each in their own dialect --- a proclamation of God's greatest deed.

The miracle of hearing and understanding is a reversal of the tower of Babel story.

The crowd is carefully characterized from sources of origin. This reflects the known world of the Jewish diaspora.

2:14-36 Peter's speech – Peter acts as a spokesman for the apostles. This is the first major rhetorical composition of the Book of Acts. And includes two key proof texts of early Christianity:

2:14-21 Peter answers the question: what does this mean?

1. They are not drunk, Joel 2:28-32 tells you this is ecstatic speech, a form of prophecy, and is the work of the Spirit of God;
2. This is a phenomena of the last days but belongs to a stage before the final day of the Lord;
3. The final end is still to come
4. The Spirit is poured out on all flesh regardless of age, gender or class.

2:22 Who was Jesus? Jesus' miracles represent divine attestation; but this was a man through whom God was working in the midst of his people.

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<sup>19</sup> Exodus 19:16-19 (NRSV) 16 On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, as well as a thick cloud on the mountain, and a blast of a trumpet so loud that all the people who were in the camp trembled. 17 Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God. They took their stand at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke, because the Lord had descended upon it in fire; the smoke went up like the smoke of a kiln, while the whole mountain shook violently. 19 As the blast of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses would speak and God would answer him in thunder.

<sup>20</sup> 1 Kings 19:11-12 (NRSV) 11 He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; 12 and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence.

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Footnotes: Luke 3:16 Or *in*

Responsibility for his death is threefold:

2:22-23 the immediate agency (lawless men); the proximate motive force (the local audiences who had witnessed his miracles and ministry; and the divine plan.

The gift of the Spirit is the direct result, and proof, of Jesus exaltation to heaven. Luke shares the conviction that the departure of Jesus was a pre-condition for the coming of the Spirit.

2:37-41 The crowd asks what should they do – Peter replies in the classic four steps of the early Christian movement:

5. Repentance
6. Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ
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This is available to everyone not just the elite.

This leads to the exponential growth of the church through new converts.

2:42-47 picture of the practices of the early church.

### **NT Wright<sup>23</sup> Notes**

1:1-5 Acts is identified as a follow-on to the Gospel of Luke, and it is all about what Jesus continues to do and teach – he is announced as King and Lord, who is a living and powerful reality in the real world.

Luke tells us that there are at least three levels to read the book at:

The story of the early church – a selective history

A book that continues the story of Jesus as the principal actor in the events that occur

A play in which we as readers are invited to become actors in our own plays about faith in the world.

2 Fundamental facts to his book:

3. It is all based on the resurrection of Jesus; and Jesus is not a spirit or ghost, he is more embodied not less. His transformed body is now the beginning of God's new creation; and heaven and earth have come together in a new way. The resurrection of the Jesus who died under the weight of the evil and sin in the world, is the foundation for the new world.
4. The Holy Spirit's power – and people are now baptized in the Holy Spirit – which caused a renewal for the whole world, everyone, not just the Jews.

1:6-8 The dream of the kingdom is now being transformed through the resurrection – it is no longer an earthly kingdom – it is kingdom of spirit – the disciples now must become heralds and go out and tell the good news to the ends of the earth. But they need to wait for the Holy Spirit to come over them.

1:9-14 Jesus ascends to heaven.

1:15-26 Restoring the twelve apostles. They are to wait for the Holy Spirit and stay together. So they studied the Hebrew Bible and prayed together. And the community is now a continuation of the kingdom work mission by Jesus.

2:1-4 Pentecost is 50 days after Passover Jewish festival that celebrated God's covenant with his people who he rescued from Egypt. It is an agricultural festival. That was about how God gave his chosen people the Law, way of life, that they now must carry on with.

The Jewish story which includes Moses going up a mountain, fire, smoke and wind arising when he and God spoke, and then he bringing down the tablets with the 10 commandments. Similarly, Jesus has just ascended and the Holy Spirit arrives with wind and fire and the believers are transformed and able to communicate universally as a result.

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<sup>23</sup> NT Wright, Acts Part 1 For Everyone

Luke believed that the wind came from heaven. The Holy Spirit is the creative power of God himself come to earth and does its work here in people's hearts.

The aim was not to create an alternative reality. The point was to transform earth with the power of heaven, starting with the bodies, hearts and minds of the followers of Jesus in a small house.

The spirit does not come to divide, but to unite, first the Jesus community, and then the Jesus community with the Jewish diaspora as represented by the crowds that form outside the house because of the wind and noise.

The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost complements Jesus ascension to heaven. The risen Jesus in heaven is the first part of the transformation of earth, transformed into a new creation. It is the joining of heaven and earth and the pouring out of God's presence through the Holy Spirit. It is the exuberant energy of heaven on earth.

Luke makes clear that this great wind fills the sails of the fleet of apostles who will sail out to convert the world. But it also transforms them into effective evangelists from frightened cowering individuals.

Speaking in tongues: this was a phenomenon of the early church that persists to today. Paul was aware of it. (1 Cor 12:2-3<sup>24</sup>) It may be a way of getting in touch with deeply buried emotions and bringing them to the surface to sing praise to God.

What is clear is that God is moving in mysterious ways among his people to make the good news heard; that he is not treating everyone the same way; and that God longs to give the Holy Spirit to people and that all we have to do is ask for it.

2:5-13 The question from Acts 1 was how would God fulfill the promise to extend his sovereign rule through Israel to the entire world. Going back to Genesis 12:3 "In you, and in your family, all families of earth will be blessed." And ignorantly the people build towers in Babel to reach heaven and God overturns the project and renders them into different languages to make it more difficult for people.

Luke is implying that on the Day of Pentecost God overturns this curse. God is signaling again that Abraham's people will be the path to the entire human race for redemption.

The crowd responds thinking the people in the house have been drinking.

2:14-21 Peter steps up as the new leader/spokesman for the community, and he tells the crowd that the "last days" are near. The prophet Joel had spoken of them. The coming of the Lord. The early Christians believed they were living during the last days, but before the final day of the Lord's reappearance and judgement. That this would be a time of new creation that would start with God's own people.

Now with a sudden burst of energy released through the death and resurrection of Jesus, God's spirit has been poured out upon a community of people at the same time. There is no discrimination. The Spirit is available for all.

2:22-36

23 "this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God," Doctrine of Election in Romans 9:11-12 "Even before they had been born or had done anything good or bad (so that God's purpose of election might continue, 12 not by works but by his call) he was told, "The elder shall serve the younger."

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<sup>24</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:2-3 (NRSV) 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. 3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

The resurrection of Jesus is explained in the context of God's promises to King David, and therefore Jesus is the rightful heir to be King of Israel.

Resurrection is not about a ghost or spirit appearing after someone has died. It is about a physical body being dead and then thoroughly alive.

The babbling of tongues is a sign that we are in the last days, and the wind and fire is an outpouring of God's spirit and a sign that the resurrection of Jesus is a sure and certain sign that he is the Messiah.

The extraordinary phenomena of Pentecost were a significant signpost, but they point to Good Friday and Easter as the reality of what has changed in the world. The meaning of Easter is; "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

What does this mean?

4. God intended Jesus to die at the climax of his rescue mission to earth;
5. The intentions and actions that sent Jesus to his death were desperately wicked
6. God knows how powerful evil is in the world and had long planned to nullify its power by taking on the force himself, in the person of the Messiah, the man in whom God himself would be embodied.

Peter launches the early Christians on a collision course with the authorities:

3. Jesus is the true King, which means his followers need no longer view earthly authorities as absolute.
4. The Jewish and Roman authorities were responsible for Jesus death. (Both chosen people and pagans) – and their power is now called into question and the only thing they can do now is repent.

The Good News, Gospel, is that Jesus with his resurrection has demonstrated that he is the Messiah and Lord, and through his death and resurrection have dealt a blow against evil.

2:37-41 Repeating JohnBap's message they are called to repent. God has brought forward what was promised for the future. It is available now. The kingdom of God.

2:42-27 The four elements of the early church:

5. The apostles teaching
6. The common life of those who believed
7. The breaking of bread
8. Prayer

## Luke and the Holy Spirit

**Nativity:** Angel appears to Zachariah, Mary, and Simian recognizes the Messiah and thanks the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

**Baptism:** The Holy Spirit differentiates Jesus' baptism from others – the theophonic event, the dove and the voice, denote Jesus unique status for JohnBap.

Luke 3:21-22 21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;[a] with you I am well pleased." [b]

### The Wilderness:

Luke 4:1 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,

### The Father will send the Holy Spirit to you:

Luke 11:10-13 10 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for [a] a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? 12 Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit [b] to those who ask him!"

Luke 12:12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say."

## The Books of Acts

Acts 1: Teaching, Baptism, Power to be witnesses to end of earth

Acts 1:2 giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

Acts 1:5 you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 2: Filled with the Holy Spirit, able to speak and be understood in other languages, Repent, be baptized in Jesus name, sins forgiven, and receive the gift of the holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4 2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:32 32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. 33 Being therefore exalted at [g] the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear.

- Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 4: Peter is filled with the Holy Spirit and speaks to authority and power; and with boldness
- Acts 5: Ananias and Sapphira -- Do not lie to the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey God
- Acts 6: Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit
- Acts 7: Stephen says: "you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do" and while being stoned  
Stephen is "filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God."
- Acts 8: The Gospel spreads to Samaria and Peter and John are sent baptizes new followers in the Holy Spirit.  
The Spirit directs Phillip to preach to and baptize the Ethiopian Eunuch
- Acts 9: Paul's conversion includes: 17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul[b] and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."
- Acts 10: The Spirit directs Peter to evangelize to Cornelius a centurion, who is baptized in the Holy Spirit
- Acts 11: Peter: "17 If then God gave them (Gentiles) the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?"  
The expansion of the Church to Antioch, Paul's first mission.

## Appendix One: Chronology of Writings<sup>25</sup>

Text	Years
Paul <sup>26</sup> 's Letters	54-58CE
Mark	68-73 CE
Matthew	80-90 CE +/- 10 years
Luke	85 +/- 5-10 CE
Acts	85 +/- 5-10 CE
John	80-110CE, or evangelist in the 90s and redactor 100-110
1 John	100 CE
2 John	100 CE
3 John	100 CE

## Appendix Two: Definitions

### Definition

#### Spirit/Ruach:

"The basic meaning of ruach is both 'wind' or 'breath,' but neither is understood as essence; rather it is the power encountered in the breath and the wind, whose whence and whither remains mysterious... 2. ruach as a designation for the wind is necessarily something found in motion with the power to set other things in motion...The divine designation also apparently has an intensifying function in a few passages: ruach elohim (Gen 1:2) and ruach yhwh (Isa 59:19)"<sup>27</sup>

#### Holy Spirit

The third person of the Trinity. In the OT, "spirit" was primarily used to express God's power in the world. In the NT, Jesus is called the Christ because he is the one anointed by the Spirit. The gift of the Spirit to Jesus' disciples after the crucifixion is associated with the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus in Jn 20:19-23 and with the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2. The Catechism states that the church is holy "because the Holy Spirit dwells in it, consecrates its members, and guides them to do God's will" (BCP, p. 854).

The Council of Constantinople in 381 stated that the Holy Spirit is as truly God as the Son, both being of "one substance" with the Father. The Nicene Creed states belief "in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets" (BCP, p. 359). In the relations of the persons of the Trinity, the Spirit is said to proceed from the Father by the mode of "spiration" or "breathing," while the Son is said to proceed from the Father by the mode of "generation." Western theology came to speak of the Spirit proceeding "from the Father and the Son."

The Episcopal theologian William Porcher DuBose stated in *The Soteriology of the New Testament* (1892) that "all God's operations in us as spiritual beings are by the word through the spirit" (p. 56). Pneumatology is the theological study of the Holy Spirit. The Hymnal 1982 provides a section of hymns on the Holy Spirit (Hymns 500-516), including "Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire" (Hymns 503-504) and "Breathe on me, Breath of God" (Hymn 508). See Filioque; see Trinity. (Source: <https://episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary/holy-spirit>)

<sup>25</sup> Raymond E. Brown, *Introduction to the New Testament*

<sup>26</sup> Paul and Peter put to death by Nero 64 CE

<sup>27</sup> *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*, "Ruach"

## Trinity

The Trinity is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (BCP, p. 852). The term is from the Latin *tri*, "three," and *unitas*, "unity." The term was devised by Tertullian to express the mystery of the unity-in-diversity of God. Trinity means "threefold unity." The corresponding word in Greek is *ho trias*, which means "the Triad."

The Trinity is a perfect relationship of love in which neither unity nor distinctness of the divine persons is compromised. God's life is understood to be dynamic, loving, and available to be shared in relationship with humanity for salvation.

The term "economic Trinity" has been applied to the life of the Trinity in time and space, in the "economy" of salvation; as distinguished from the "immanent Trinity" which refers to the inner life of God beyond the limits of time and space. It may be said that our experience of the economic Trinity leads us to know the immanent Trinity and that God's self-revelation corresponds to God's essential nature. However, the helpfulness of this distinction should not be overemphasized because there is only one divine trinitarian life. Karl Rahner states, "The economic Trinity is the immanent Trinity, and vice versa."

Christian theology is the heir of both uncompromising biblical monotheism and the Platonic, Aristotelian, and Stoic emphases on the unity and simplicity of God. However, the NT ascribed a place of equality with God to the Word of God who became incarnate in Jesus of Nazareth (e.g., Jn 1:1-18, Col 1:15-20). The Spirit of God was also included in the divine life (1 Cor 2:10-13).

The church took several centuries to work out a reasonably acceptable way to express the complex relation of Father, Son, and Spirit. The nearly complete doctrine of the Trinity announced at Constantinople in 381 held that God is one Being (*ousia*) in three equal and consubstantial persons or hypostases: the Father uncreated, the Son uncreated but begotten, the Spirit proceeding from the Father (and, in the western version of the Creed, the Son). The Athanasian Creed states that "we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance" (BCP, p. 864). Article I of the Articles of Religion affirms that in the unity of God "there be three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity; the "Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost" (BCP, p. 867). See Filioque; see *Homoousios*; see *Perichoresis*; see *Trinity Sunday*. (Source: <https://episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary/trinity>)

## Academic Discipline<sup>28</sup>

Pneumatology, the study of the Holy Spirit.

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<sup>28</sup> Pneumatology refers to a particular discipline within Christian theology that focuses on the study of the Holy Spirit. The term is essentially derived from the Greek word *Pneuma* (πνεῦμα), which designates "breath" or "spirit" and metaphorically describes a non-material being or influence. The English term *pneumatology* comes from two Greek words: *πνεῦμα* (*pneuma*, spirit) and *λόγος* (*logos*, teaching about). Pneumatology includes study of the person of the Holy Spirit, and the works of the Holy Spirit.[1] This latter category also includes Christian teachings on new birth, spiritual gifts (*charismata*), Spirit-baptism, sanctification, the inspiration of prophets, and the indwelling of the Holy Trinity (which in itself covers many different aspects). Different Christian denominations have different theological approaches on various pneumatological questions.



**Appendix Three: Names  
Hebrew Bible (NRSV)**

Genesis 1:2	<b>Spirit of God</b> 1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while <b>a wind from God</b> <sup>29</sup> swept over the face of the waters.
Genesis 2:7	7 then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground,[b] and <b>breathed into his nostrils the breath of life</b> ; and the man became a living being.
Genesis 7:22	The Breath of the Spirit of Life 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings; 22 everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the <b>breath of life</b> died.
Isaiah 11:2	Spirit of YHWH
Isaiah 11:2	Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding
Isaiah 11:2	Spirit of Counsel and Might
Isaiah 11:2	Spirit of Knowledge and Fear of YHWH The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
Isaiah 63:10	Holy Spirit But they rebelled and grieved his <b>holy spirit</b> ; therefore he became their enemy; he himself fought against them.
Psalms 51:10-12	Holy Spirit 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right[b] spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your <b>holy spirit</b> from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing[c] spirit.

**Names**

**Hebrew Bible Names**

Genesis 1:2 <sup>30</sup>	Spirit of God
Genesis 7:22 <sup>31</sup>	The Breath of the Spirit of Life
Isaiah 11:2 <sup>32</sup>	Spirit of YHWH

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<sup>29</sup> Genesis 1:2 Or while the **spirit of God** or while a mighty wind

<sup>30</sup> Genesis 1:2 1 In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2 the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a **wind from God** swept over the face of the waters.

<sup>31</sup> Genesis 7:21-22 21 And all flesh died that moved on the earth, birds, domestic animals, wild animals, all swarming creatures that swarm on the earth, and all human beings; 22 everything on dry land in whose nostrils was the **breath of life** died.

<sup>32</sup> Isaiah 11:2 **The spirit of the Lord** shall rest on him,  
the **spirit of wisdom and understanding**,

Isaiah 11:2	Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding
Isaiah 11:2	Spirit of Counsel and Might
Isaiah 11:2	Spirit of Knowledge and Fear of YHWH
Isaiah 63:10 <sup>33</sup>	Holy Spirit
Psalms 51:10-12 <sup>34</sup>	Holy Spirit

### New Testament Names

Mark 1:9-12 <sup>35</sup>	Spirit
Matthew 1:18 <sup>36</sup>	Holy Spirit
Matthew 12:28 <sup>37</sup>	Spirit of God
John 14:26; 16:7 <sup>38</sup>	The Advocate, Helper, Comforter, Paraclete
John 16:13 <sup>39</sup>	Spirit of Truth
1 Peter 1:11 <sup>40</sup>	Spirit of Christ

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the **spirit of counsel and might**,  
the **spirit of knowledge** and the fear of the Lord.

<sup>33</sup> Isaiah 63:10 But they rebelled  
and grieved his **holy spirit**;  
therefore he became their enemy;  
he himself fought against them.

<sup>34</sup> Psalms 51:10-12 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right[b] spirit within me.  
11 Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your **holy spirit** from me.  
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing[c] spirit.

<sup>35</sup> Mark 1:9-12 Spirit 9 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the **Spirit** descending like a dove on him. 11 And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;[h] with you I am well pleased." 12 And the **Spirit** immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

<sup>36</sup> Matthew 1:18 Holy Spirit 18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the **Holy Spirit**.

<sup>37</sup> Matthew 12:28 28 But if it is by the **Spirit of God** that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

<sup>38</sup> John 14:26; 16:7 The Advocate, Helper, Comforter, cf. Paraclete, Holy Spirit  
26 But the **Advocate,[a] the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.  
Footnotes: John 14:26 Or Helper  
John 16:7 Paraclete, Advocate (Helper)  
7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the **Advocate[a]** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.  
Footnotes: John 16:7 Or Helper

<sup>39</sup> John 16:13 Spirit of Truth 13 When the **Spirit of truth** comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

<sup>40</sup> 1 Peter 1:11 Spirit of Christ 10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours made careful search and inquiry, 11 inquiring about the person or time that the **Spirit of Christ** within them indicated when it testified in advance to the sufferings destined for Christ and the subsequent glory.

**Appendix Four: Selected NT References for the Holy Spirit**

Source: NRSV

**Mark**

Mark 1:8 "I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit**."

Mark 3:29 "but whoever blasphemes against the **Holy Spirit** can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—

Mark 12:36 David himself, by **the Holy Spirit**, declared, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.'"

Mark 13:11 "When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the **Holy Spirit**."

Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah[a] took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the **Holy Spirit**.

*Footnotes: Matthew 1:18 Or Jesus Christ*

Matthew: 2:11 11 "I baptize you with[b] water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with[c] the **Holy Spirit** and fire.

Matthew 2:16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and alighting on him.

Matthew 3:11 "I baptize you with[a] water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with[b] the **Holy Spirit** and fire."

*Footnotes: Matthew 3:11 Or in; Matthew 3:11 Or in*

Matthew 28:19-20 19 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**, 20 and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."[a]

*Footnotes: Matthew 28:20 Other ancient authorities add Amen*

Luke 1:15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the **Holy Spirit**.

Luke 1:35 The angel said to her, "The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

Luke 1:41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the **Holy Spirit**

Luke 1:67 [ Zechariah's Prophecy ] Then his father Zechariah was filled with the **Holy Spirit** and spoke this prophecy:

- Luke 2:25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the **Holy Spirit** rested on him.
- Luke 2:26 It had been revealed to him by the **Holy Spirit** that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.
- Luke 3:16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the **Holy Spirit** and fire
- Luke 3:21-22 21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 and the **Holy Spirit** descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;[a] with you I am well pleased." [b]
- Luke 4:1 Jesus, full of the **Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness,
- Luke 10:21 [ Jesus Rejoices ] At that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the **Holy Spirit** and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.
- Luke 11:10-13 10 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for[a] a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? 12 Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the **Holy Spirit**[b] to those who ask him!"
- Footnotes: Luke 11:11 Other ancient authorities add bread, will give a stone; or if your child asks for; Luke 11:13 Other ancient authorities read the Father give the Holy Spirit from heaven*
- Luke 12:10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever blasphemes against the **Holy Spirit** will not be forgiven.
- Luke 12:12 for the **Holy Spirit** will teach you at that very hour what you ought to say."
- Acts 1:1 [ The Promise of the **Holy Spirit** ] In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning
- Acts 1:2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the **Holy Spirit** to the apostles whom he had chosen.
- Acts 1:5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the **Holy Spirit** not many days from now."
- Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the **Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- Acts 1:16 "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the **Holy Spirit** through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—

- Acts 2:1-4 2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
- Acts 2:32 32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. 33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear.
- Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders,
- Acts 4:25 it is you who said by the Holy Spirit through our ancestor David, your servant: 'Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples imagine vain things?
- Acts 4:31 When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness.
- Acts 5:3 5 But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; 2 with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 "Ananias," Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us[a] but to God!" 5 Now when Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear seized all who heard of it. 6 The young men came and wrapped up his body,[b] then carried him out and buried him
- Acts 5:32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."
- Acts 6:5 What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.
- Acts 7:51 "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do.
- Acts 7:55 But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.
- Acts 8:15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit

- Acts 8:17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the **Holy Spirit**.
- Acts 8:19 saying, "Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the **Holy Spirit**."
- Acts 9:17 So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the **Holy Spirit**."
- Acts 9:31 Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the **Holy Spirit**, it increased in numbers.
- Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the **Holy Spirit** and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.
- Acts 10:44 [ Gentiles Receive the **Holy Spirit** ] While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word.
- Acts 10:45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the **Holy Spirit** had been poured out even on the Gentiles,
- Acts 10:47 "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the **Holy Spirit** just as we have?"
- Acts 11:15-16 And as I began to speak, the **Holy Spirit** fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'
- Acts 11:24 for he was a good man, full of the **Holy Spirit** and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord.
- 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
- Acts 13:4 [ The Apostles Preach in Cyprus ] So, being sent out by the **Holy Spirit**, they went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed to Cyprus.
- Acts 13:9 But Saul, also known as Paul, filled with the **Holy Spirit**, looked intently at him
- Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the **Holy Spirit**.
- Acts 15:8 And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the **Holy Spirit**, just as he did to us;
- Acts 15:28 For it has seemed good to the **Holy Spirit** and to us to impose on you no further burden than these essentials:
- Acts 16:6 [ Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia ] They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the **Holy Spirit** to speak the word in Asia.

- Acts 19:2 He said to them, “Did you receive the **Holy Spirit** when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a **Holy Spirit**.”
- Acts 19:6 When Paul had laid his hands on them, the **Holy Spirit** came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—
- Acts 20:23 except that the **Holy Spirit** testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and persecutions are waiting for me.
- Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the **Holy Spirit** has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son.
- Acts 21:11 He came to us and took Paul’s belt, bound his own feet and hands with it, and said, “Thus says the **Holy Spirit**, ‘This is the way the Jews in Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’”
- Acts 28:25 So they disagreed with each other; and as they were leaving, Paul made one further statement: “The **Holy Spirit** was right in saying to your ancestors through the prophet Isaiah,
- John 1:32-34 32 And John testified, “I saw the **Spirit** descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the **Spirit** descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the **Holy Spirit**.’ 34 And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”<sup>[i]</sup>
- John 14:15-31 15 “If you love me, you will keep<sup>[f]</sup> my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Advocate**,<sup>[g]</sup> to be with you forever. 17 This is the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in<sup>[h]</sup> you.
- 18 “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. 21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?” 23 Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. 24 Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.
- 25 “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. 26 But the **Advocate**,<sup>[i]</sup> the **Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. 28 You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father,

because the Father is greater than I. 29 And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. 30 I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; 31 but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

Footnotes: John 14:1 Or You believe; John 14:2 Or If it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you; John 14:4 Other ancient authorities read Where I am going you know, and the way you know; John 14:7 Other ancient authorities read If you had known me, you would have known; John 14:14 Other ancient authorities lack me; John 14:15 Other ancient authorities read me, keep; John 14:16 Or Helper; John 14:17 Or among; John 14:26 Or Helper

John 15:26 26 “When the Advocate[h] comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. 27 You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

*Footnotes: John 15:26 Or Helper*

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

John 20:22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

John 20:21-23 21 Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

1 John 4:6 We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

1 John 5:6 [ Testimony concerning the Son of God ] This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

1 John 2:1 2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2 and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.



## Epistles

- Romans 5:5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the **Holy Spirit** that has been given to us.
- Romans 8:9 9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the **Spirit**,[a] since the **Spirit** of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the **Spirit of Christ** does not belong to him.
- Footnotes: Romans 8:9 Or spirit*
- Romans 8:26 26 Likewise the **Spirit** helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very **Spirit** intercedes[a] with sighs too deep for words.
- Footnotes: Romans 8:26 Other ancient authorities add for us*
- Romans 9:1 [ God's Election of Israel ] I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the **Holy Spirit**—
- Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the **Holy Spirit**.
- Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the **Holy Spirit**.
- Romans 15:16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the **Holy Spirit**.
- 1 Cor 6:19 19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple[a] of the **Holy Spirit** within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?
- Footnotes: 1 Corinthians 6:19 Or sanctuary*
- 1 Cor 12:1-11 12 Now concerning spiritual gifts,[a] brothers and sisters,[b] I do not want you to be uninformed. 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. 3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the **Spirit of God** ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the **Holy Spirit**.
- 4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same **Spirit**; 5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the **Spirit** for the common good. 8 To one is given through the **Spirit** the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same **Spirit**, 9 to another faith by the same **Spirit**, to another gifts of healing by the one **Spirit**, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are activated by one and the same **Spirit**, who allots to each one individually just as the **Spirit** chooses.

2 Cor 3

3 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Surely we do not need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you or from you, do we? 2 You yourselves are our letter, written on our[a] hearts, to be known and read by all; 3 and you show that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the **Spirit** of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

4 Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, 6 who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of letter but of spirit; for the letter kills, but the **Spirit** gives life.

7 Now if the ministry of death, chiseled in letters on stone tablets,[b] came in glory so that the people of Israel could not gaze at Moses' face because of the glory of his face, a glory now set aside, 8 how much more will the **ministry of the Spirit** come in glory? 9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, much more does the ministry of justification abound in glory! 10 Indeed, what once had glory has lost its glory because of the greater glory; 11 for if what was set aside came through glory, much more has the permanent come in glory!

12 Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, 13 not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that[c] was being set aside. 14 But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. 15 Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; 16 but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the **Lord is the Spirit**, and where the **Spirit of the Lord** is, there is freedom. 18 And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the **Spirit**.

*Footnotes: 2 Corinthians 3:2 Other ancient authorities read your; 2 Corinthians 3:7 Gk on stones; 2 Corinthians 3:13 Gk of what*

Gal 5:5-6

5 For through the **Spirit**, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything; the only thing that counts is faith working[a] through love.

*Footnotes: Galatians 5:6 Or made effective*

Gal 5:16-18

16 Live by the **Spirit**, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For what the flesh desires is opposed to the **Spirit**, and what the **Spirit** desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. 18 But if you are led by the **Spirit**, you are not subject to the law.

Ga 5:

22 By contrast, the fruit of the **Spirit** is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the **Spirit**,

let us also be guided by the **Spirit**. 26 Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

- Eph 1:13-14 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised **Holy Spirit**; 14 this[d] is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.
- Eph 4:1-6 I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the **Spirit** in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one **Spirit**, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.
- Ephesians 3:5 In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the **Spirit**:
- Eph 4:30-32 30 And do not grieve the **Holy Spirit** of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. 31 Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, 32 and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.[c]
- Eph 5:18-20 but be filled with the **Spirit**, 19 as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, 20 giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1 Thessalonians 1:5-6 because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the **Holy Spirit** and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the **Holy Spirit**,
- 1 Thessalonians 4:8 Therefore whoever rejects this rejects not human authority but God, who also gives his **Holy Spirit** to you.
- 2 Timothy 1:14 Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the **Holy Spirit** living in us.
- Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the **Holy Spirit**.
- Hebrews 2:4 while God added his testimony by signs and wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the **Holy Spirit**, distributed according to his will.
- Hebrews 3:7 [ Warning against Unbelief ] Therefore, as the **Holy Spirit** says, "Today, if you hear his voice,
- Hebrews 6:4 For it is impossible to restore again to repentance those who have once been enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the **Holy Spirit**,

- Hebrews 9:8                   By this the Holy Spirit indicates that the way into the sanctuary has not yet been disclosed as long as the first tent is still standing.
- Hebrews 10:15                And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,
- 1 Peter 1:12                 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in regard to the things that have now been announced to you through those who brought you good news by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things
- 2 Peter 1:21                 because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
- Jude 1:20                    But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit;

## AppendixFive : Book of Common Prayer, Creeds

### Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed is a concise summary of the core beliefs of Christianity, primarily concerned with defining the nature of the three persons comprising the Trinity - God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. It was originally adopted by the First Ecumenical Council in 325 in order to counter the many heresies of the time. These versions are found in the Communion liturgy of the 1979 Episcopal Church (United States) Book of Common Prayer

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen

### **Athanasius Creed on the Trinity<sup>41</sup>**

Quicunque Vult

The Creed of Saint Athanasius

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic Faith. Which Faith except everyone do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.

And the Catholic Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance.

For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one, the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost.

The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, and the Holy Ghost uncreate.

The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible.

The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal.

And yet they are not three eternals, but one eternal.

As also there are not three incomprehensible, nor three uncreated, but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible.

So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty, and the Holy Ghost Almighty.

And yet they are not three Almighty, but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God.

And yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord.

And yet not three Lords, but one Lord.

For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by himself to be both God and Lord,

So are we forbidden by the Catholic Religion, to say, There be three Gods, or three Lords.

The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten.

The Son is of the Father alone, not made, nor created, but begotten.

The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son, neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts.

And in this Trinity none is afore, or after other; none is greater, or less than another;

But the whole three Persons are co-eternal together and co-equal.

So that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.

He therefore that will be saved must think thus of the Trinity.

Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation that he also believe rightly the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the right Faith is, that we believe and confess, that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man;

God, of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and Man of the substance of his Mother, born in the world;

Perfect God and perfect Man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting.

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<sup>41</sup> Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, pp 863-4 <https://www.bcponline.org>

Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead; and inferior to the Father, as touching his manhood;  
Who, although he be God and Man, yet he is not two, but one Christ;  
One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh but by taking of the Manhood into God;  
One altogether; not by confusion of Substance, but by unity of Person.  
For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man, so God and Man is one Christ;  
Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven, he sitteth at the right hand of the Father, God Almighty, from whence he will come to judge the quick and the dead.  
At whose coming all men will rise again with their bodies and shall give account for their own works.  
And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting; and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.  
This is the Catholic Faith, which except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be saved.

### **Raymond E. Brown, The Churches the Apostles Left Behind<sup>42</sup> Notes**

Luke/Acts constitutes another form of the Pauline heritage, i.e. writes about Paul's role as a missionary, even though the author shows no knowledge of the Pauline Epistles.

Not clear who the audience was for the Books of Luke and Acts:  
Gentile/Jewish congregations  
Indirectly affected by Paul's missionary work

Important to note that by the end of Acts, Luke is writing about a largely Gentile audience, the dealing with the Jews has been left behind in Jerusalem.

Characteristics of Luke Ecclesiology<sup>43</sup>:

- The proclamation of the Kingdom of God by Jesus and the works of Jesus through the Holy Spirit seem to be on the same level of importance
- Continuity with the past
  - With the Hebrew Bible
    - JohnBap to the HB
  - with Jesus himself
- Recognizes a shift from waiting for Jesus to return to focusing on what Jesus is doing in the world through the Holy Spirit
- Recognizes the expansion of the mission from the Jews to the Gentiles and the ends of the earth

Luke recognizes that all of the apostles have died by the time of his writing 80-100 CE – so he codifies moving from personal eye witnesses to the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit

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<sup>42</sup> Raymond E. Brown, *The Churches the Apostles Left Behind*

<sup>43</sup> Ecclesiology: theology as applied to the nature and structure of the Christian Church.

The Spirit of God that moved the Prophets of Israel is active in the Jesus Story (Luke 1:15<sup>44</sup>, 35<sup>45</sup>, 41<sup>46</sup>, 67<sup>47</sup>, 80<sup>48</sup>; 2:25-27<sup>49</sup>) and at the beginning of the church (Acts 1:8<sup>50</sup>, 16<sup>51</sup>; 2:4<sup>52</sup>, 17<sup>53</sup>).

In Luke the Holy Spirit plays a connective role between the prophecy of Israel and the prophetic action surrounding the birth of Jesus and the birth of the church. Indeed the overwhelming feature of the Lucan narrative is the overwhelming presence of the Holy Spirit.

The deaths of Peter and Paul are not presented in Acts because the Holy Spirit is the main character in Luke's Acts.

Acts 1:11 As Jesus ascends to heaven the disciples are told not to look to Jesus, but await the Holy Spirit which is to take the place of Jesus on earth.

The role of the Holy Spirit in church history is unique to Acts.2:14-17 The Holy Spirit which was present in creation (Gen 1:2) and in the covenant between Israel and God (Exodus 19:16) now appears as wind and fire to proclaim a new covenant.

Acts 2: Up until Pentecost, the disciples and apostles were not publicly proclaiming what God had done through Jesus Christ in the world. The steps toward making the followers into a missionary force were: Being baptized in the Holy Spirit and empowered to speak (Acts 1:5, 8; 2:33; 4:8, 31)

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<sup>44</sup> Luke 1:15 (NRSV) 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

<sup>45</sup> Luke 1:35 (NRSV) 35 The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born[a] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Footnotes: Luke 1:35 Other ancient authorities add of you

<sup>46</sup> Luke 1:41 (NRSV) 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit

<sup>47</sup> Luke 1:67 (NRSV) 67 Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

<sup>48</sup> Luke 1:80 (NRSV) 80 The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

<sup>49</sup> Luke 2:25-27 (NRSV) 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;[a] this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.[b] 27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon[c] came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

Footnotes:

Luke 2:25 Gk Symeon

Luke 2:26 Or the Lord's Christ

Luke 2:27 Gk In the Spirit, he

<sup>50</sup> Acts 1:8 (NRSV) 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

<sup>51</sup> Acts 1:16 (NRSV) 16 "Friends,[a] the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—

Footnotes: Acts 1:16 Gk Men, brothers

<sup>52</sup> Acts 2:4 (NRSV) 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

<sup>53</sup> Acts 2:17 (NRSV)

17 'In the last days it will be, God declares,  
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,  
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,  
and your young men shall see visions,  
and your old men shall dream dreams.



Reception of the Holy Spirit marked entry into this group of believers new people who were attracted by this preaching (Acts 2:38; 8:15-17; 9:17; 15:8; 19:5-6)

The Spirit directs missionaries to promising areas (Acts 8:29, 39)

The spirit directs Peter to the first Gentile converts -- Cornelius (Acts 10:38, 44-47)

The Spirit gives Barnabas and Paul the impetus to a mission to the Gentiles (Acts 13:2,4)

And the decision not to require circumcision for membership (Acts 15:28)

Because of the Spirit Paul shifts from Asia to Europe (Acts 16:6-7)

The Spirit sends Paul to Rome (19:21)

The Spirit provides presbyters to replace Paul when he leaves Asia for Europe (20:28)

The core of the role of the Spirit in Luke/Acts is:

Continuity with the past

Intervention by the Holy Spirit in the ministry and mission work

Issues with the Holy Spirit in Acts and the Church

Acts presents the Holy Spirit as always being successful – it is an up and to the right series of events

So unlike the Hebrew Bible where the Jews have to learn to work through devastation and destruction with God, the Christians do not learn those skills

Thus we are under prepared for setbacks

The underlying assumption seems to be that the church cannot fail, because of the Holy Spirit.

We have an underlying spirit of triumphalism, rather than a mature view of success and failures. Thus people have a hard time processing why the church might fail, or decline in popularity.

#### **Bridges/Continuity in Luke<sup>54</sup>:**

3 stages of Lucan Salvation History

1. Israel – The OT – Luke 1-2 the Nativity story is the bridge from the OT (Zech, Elizabeth, shepherds, Simeon and Anna) to the NT (Mary, Jesus)
2. Jesus – A story in the Gospel -- Acts 1 and the Holy Spirit is the bridge from Jesus to the disciples and then to the Church
3. Church – The book of Acts – The Holy Spirit is the driver of the expansion of the church

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<sup>54</sup> Raymond E. Brown An Introduction to the New testament