



Slow Religion: The Holy Spirit

Joe Jennings, 2020

Summary

- OT
 - Spirit – Ruach – God’s breath action in creation
 - Becomes multi-characteristic and feared that it would be withdrawn from believers
- NT Holy Spirit
 - Incarnates, baptizes and anoints Jesus
 - Serves Jesus’ mission and ministry
 - Continues Jesus’ mission after the ascension
 - Multi-characteristic: Advocate, Teacher, Comforter, Source of believer's gifts, power and authority
 - Directs and empowers the church’s growth and expansion beyond Jewish sect to include Gentiles and to the ends of the earth

Paul

- Jesus
 - Jesus is the Son of God and was resurrected and ascended to be with God. Paul is a personal witness to the risen Lord. “The Son of God loved me and gave himself for me.” (Gal 2:20)
- Holy Spirit
 - The Holy baptizes and sanctifies believers, sustains believers, is the source of their many gifts of faith, and is a source of power and energy for believers.
 - The Lord is the spirit and living by the spirit is in contrast to living by the flesh.

John

- Jesus
 - Jesus is God incarnate.
- Holy Spirit
 - Represents God's will in the world; will be sent by the Father as an Advocate; Spirit of Truth; so that you will not be orphaned; Teacher; and will guide you to the truth.
 - Upon receiving the Holy Spirit you will exercise forgiveness of sins and mercy.
 - Will only come if Jesus goes to his father, replaces Jesus' presence with his disciples.
 - Sent by God or Jesus; given by the risen Jesus Christ through his breathing on the disciples.

Comparing Paul and John

- Romans 8:9
 - “But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
 - The Spirit of life in Jesus Christ sets you free of sin. The indwelling of the Spirit replaces evil in one’s heart and make a new life possible.
- Romans 8:26
 - “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.”
- John 14:15-16
 - 15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.”
- 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.”

Questions for Reflection

- How do I/we as a community experience the Holy Spirit?
- What are the characteristics we experience??
- How can we deepen our relationship with the Holy Spirit?

Spirit

- 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)”
- 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).

Old Testament

- Genesis 1:2 Spirit of God:
 - 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.
- Genesis 2:7
 - 7 then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground,[b] and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.
- Isaiah 11:2 Spirit of YHWH
 - Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding; Spirit of Counsel and Might; Spirit of Knowledge and Fear of YHWH
- 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 holy spirit from me.
 - 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
 - and sustain in me a willing[c] spirit.

New Testament: Holy Spirit

- Nativity
 - Matt 1:18-25; Luke 1:35-38
- Baptism of Jesus by JohnBap
 - Matt 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:29-34
- Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit
 - Matt 10:20; Luke 11:10-13, 24:36-43; John 20:19-23
- The Coming of the Holy Spirit
 - John 20:19-23
 - Acts 2 -- Pentecost

Mark

- Jesus
 - The Good News is that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
 - Christ means Messiah or anointed one.
 - Son of God is synonymous with Messiah in Mark and has the connotation of being God's authoritative agent.
- Holy Spirit
 - God's spirit active in the world (as in the OT); signifying Jesus identity; acting with prophetic force; and will be with you and will give you the words to say when you are persecuted for having faith in Jesus Christ.

Matthew

- Jesus
 - Jesus the Messiah, the Son of David, the son of Abraham.
- Holy Spirit
 - Mary conceives of a child from the Holy Spirit; JohnBap promises a future person who will baptize with the Holy Spirit; Spirit of God descends on Jesus at his baptism; the Holy Spirit will be sent by the Father to help you speak; and early reference to the trinity.
 - Many references to spirits and evil spirits.

Luke

- Jesus Christ
 - God incarnate through the Holy Spirit; fully human; anointed by God and the Holy Spirit; inspired by the Holy Spirit; and resurrected and ascended to God after his death.
- Holy Spirit
 - God's presence and actions at the Nativity for JohnBap and Jesus; Jesus' baptism by JohnBap; Jesus led into the wilderness by the Spirit; the Holy Spirit is a gift from God; Teacher;

Acts

- 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.
- 2 Fundamental facts to his book:
 - 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.
 - 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.

Chronology

- | • Text | Years |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • Paul '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 |
| • 1,2,3 John | 100 CE |