

A full-page background image of a lush forest. In the foreground, a waterfall cascades over mossy rocks, creating white foam. Sunlight filters through the dense green canopy of trees, creating a hazy, ethereal atmosphere. The text is overlaid on this scene.

THE SPIRIT

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A Place in the Wilderness

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Scripture quotations are from the
American Standard Version of the Bible (1901)
unless otherwise noted.

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In the Old Testament, God's Spirit is generally called the Spirit of God¹ or the Spirit of Jehovah.² This was God as the Spirit moving in His creation and coming upon man as power. The great blessings of the Spirit to His people were not yet revealed.

The Names of the Spirit

In the New Testament, God has opened the storehouse of His supply to us as the Spirit. His many names and functions reveal the numerous aspects of the Spirit in His relationship with man. All of these are for and according to the eternal desire of God's heart. He is known as the Holy Spirit,³ the Spirit of holiness,⁴ the life-giving Spirit,⁵ the Spirit of life,⁶ the

¹ Gen. 1:2

² Judg. 6:34

³ Luke 1:35

⁴ Rom. 1:4

⁵ John 6:63; 1 Cor 15:45

⁶ Rom. 8:2

Spirit of truth,¹ the Spirit of God,² the Spirit of the Father,³ the Spirit of God's Son,⁴ the Spirit of Jesus,⁵ the Spirit of Christ,⁶ the Spirit of Jesus Christ,⁷ the Spirit of the Lord,⁸ the Spirit of glory,⁹ the eternal Spirit,¹⁰ the seven Spirits,¹¹ and simply the Spirit.¹²

The Aspects of the Spirit

Furthermore, among other things, He is God,¹³ the Begetter,¹⁴ The Dove,¹⁵ the living water,¹⁶ the breath,¹⁷ the baptism,¹⁸ the Revealer,¹⁹ the power,²⁰ the Anointer,²¹ the food,²² the Teacher,²³ the Comforter,²⁴

¹ John 14:17; 16:13

² Matt. 3:16

³ Matt. 10:20

⁴ Gal. 4:6

⁵ Acts 16:7

⁶ 1 Pet. 1:11

⁷ Phil. 1:19

⁸ Acts 5:9; 2 Cor. 3:17

⁹ 1 Pet. 4:14

¹⁰ Heb. 9:14

¹¹ Rev. 1:4

¹² John 7:39

¹³ John 4:24; Acts 5:3–4

¹⁴ John 3:5–6

¹⁵ John 1:32

¹⁶ John 7:39

¹⁷ John 20:22

¹⁸ Mark 1:8; Acts 1:5

¹⁹ Luke 2:26

²⁰ Luke 4:14; Acts 1:8

²¹ Luke 4:18

²² Luke 11:11–13

²³ Luke 12:12

²⁴ John 14:26; 15:26

the gift,¹ the anointing oil,² the clothing,³ the filling,⁴ the firstfruits,⁵ the Intercessor,⁶ the Sanctifier,⁷ love,⁸ the Giver of gifts,⁹ the foretaste,¹⁰ the Liberator,¹¹ the Transformer,¹² the seal,¹³ oneness,¹⁴ the word of God,¹⁵ the bountiful supply,¹⁶ truth,¹⁷ and much more.

Unfathomable

Who can *understand* such a Spirit! No one. Trying to understand this Spirit is like trying to fit an ocean into a teacup. The effort is not only wasted, it is even absurd. No doctrine, no dogma, no theology can define this Being. He is undefinable, immeasurable, and incomprehensible.

Consider: Typical Christian doctrine says the three of the Trinity are three Persons. But what does

¹ Acts 2:38

² Acts 10:38

³ Acts 13:9

⁴ Acts 13:52

⁵ Rom. 8:23

⁶ Rom. 8:26

⁷ Rom. 15:16; 1 Pet. 1:2

⁸ Rom. 15:30

⁹ 1 Cor. 12:4–11

¹⁰ 2 Cor. 1:22

¹¹ 2 Cor. 3:17

¹² 2 Cor. 3:18

¹³ Eph. 1:13

¹⁴ Eph. 4:3

¹⁵ Eph. 6:17

¹⁶ Phil. 1:19

¹⁷ 1 John 5:7

the Bible say? It says God is Spirit.¹ How can the entire God be the third “Person” of the Godhead? The Bible also says the Lord is the Spirit.² How can the Lord, the second of the Trinity, be the Spirit—the third of the Trinity?

The Bible says clearly that there is one Spirit.³ But it also tells us there are seven Spirits.⁴ How can this be? Is the Spirit one or seven? The answer to that question is, Yes!

Furthermore, The Bible says the Spirit is the breath of the second of the Godhead,⁵ and the seven Spirits are the eyes of the second.⁶ How can this be? In addition, the second of the Godhead became a man, who then became the Spirit in resurrection.⁷

You might say that I am confusing the Godhead. Actually though, I am simply pointing out what the Bible says. If there is confusion, it lies in the minds of those trying to define God, who is undefinable.

So then, what do we do? We stop trying to *understand* God. We stop attempting to fit God into some kind of doctrinal theology. Then, the confusion

¹ John 4:24

² 1 Cor. 3:17

³ Eph. 4:4

⁴ Rev. 1:4

⁵ John 20:22

⁶ Rev. 5:6

⁷ 1 Cor. 15:45

will pass. God is not for our *mind*; God, who is Spirit, is for our human *spirit*.

The Marvelous Pear

Consider a pear. It is splendid to look at, and smells quite sweet. But, I understand virtually nothing about it. I might study it, analyze it, dissect it, and put it under a microscope. Yet, I still would hardly know a thing about it. Its mysteries would remain just that—mysteries.

I could examine that pear for days, until it rotted, and the ants came and carried it off. But, I still would really know nothing about it. And, worse still, I would remain hungry.

What I really need is to take that pear into me—bite it, savor its sweetness, let its juices fill my mouth, chew it, then swallow. Next, I would assimilate all it is. Not only would I be relishing its goodness in taste and texture, I would become more healthy by virtue of what that pear is and what it does to me inwardly.

All my study and analysis would avail me nothing. I actually must eat that pear. So is the Spirit! I can never understand Him, but I can partake of Him, drink Him in, breathe Him in, be filled with Him.

The Wonderful Spirit

This Spirit is most wonderful! He is, in fact, whatever we need Him to be. Are you thirsty deep within? He is life-giving water. Are you lonely? He is the Comforter. Are you weak and tired? He is power and life. Whatever your need, He is.

You might rightly ask, “He might be all these things, but how do I partake of them? Yes, He is a marvelous Being, but He is there, and I am here. What good is that to me?” These are most excellent questions.

The Marvelous Jesus

When Jesus was on the Earth, on the last day of the feast—the greatest day—when all had eaten and drunk their fill, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If any man thirst, let him come to me and drink.”¹ He was speaking of the Spirit—that Spirit He would become in His resurrection when He was glorified.

Jesus realized mankind was thirsty. Man hungered and thirsted for God. There is an empty spot deep within man—a spot that only God can fill. Man tries to fill himself with so many things—amuse-

¹ John 7:37–39

ments, lusts, education, religion, nature, and on and on. But that spot can only be satisfied by God Himself, for this is how God made man.

Jesus cried out to all the thirsty ones to come to Him, for He is the one with the living water. The water that He gives is the Spirit. That water becomes rivers of living water flowing out of the man who drinks of this Spirit.

The Lord did not try to explain the Spirit. No! He offered man to drink that Spirit. In every instance, the Lord never tried to explain God. He never “fed” man’s mind. He always fed man’s spirit, imparting to man that wonderful, thirst-quenching Spirit of God.

When Nicodemus came to Christ for some better teaching—indeed, he addressed Jesus as “Teacher”—the Lord told him he must be born of the Spirit!¹ He did not give Nicodemus something for his mind, which Nicodemus thought he needed. No! He led Nicodemus to the Spirit, to what he really needed and actually wanted deep within.

¹ John 3:5

How

You might still ask, “How do I drink the living water? How do I come to Christ to drink? How does he give me the Spirit?”

From birth, we know innately how to drink. We suckle and drink. No teaching is involved. We swallow without prompting. We drink freely without instruction.

So it is with the Spirit. We simply come and drink. For example, we may come to the Lord and say, “Lord Jesus, I am thirsty. Give me a drink. Give me of Your Spirit. Fill me to overflowing.”

Or, we could say to the Lord, “I open to You. I open my deepest part. Wonderful Jesus, pour Yourself into me.”

No matter how I say it, or when I say it, if I come to the Lord and open, He will fill me. *If you come and open, He will fill you!*

The Spirit's Operation

When this Spirit enters us, He is not static. He is always moving and working. He brings God Himself into us and deposits the very element of the holy God within us. This slowly makes us holy, until we are as holy as God is. How amazing is this! This is God's sanctification of us.

Furthermore, this incredible Spirit works within us to make us like Christ, to change us into the same image as He. We once were dark and of evil countenance, but this Spirit is transforming us into Christ's brilliant and stunning image. What an unspeakable blessing!

Simple

You might think that this is too simple, that it must be more complicated than this. You might feel you should have to do something for this, that you must "earn" your living, or you might believe that nothing is free, and look for a "catch."

But, not so. Does a newborn earn its mother's milk? Is it complicated for the newborn to drink? Is there some sort of hidden agenda in the mother's feeding of her babe? If this is true of us humans, it is far more true of the great and most excellent God!

God is God. He can do everything. He doesn't need us to do anything—except to come and open! At the very end of the Bible, God's marvelous offer is set forth: "He that is athirst, let him come: he that will, let him take the water of life freely."¹ The Spirit

¹ Rev. 22:17

Himself declares, “Come!” So come, open, receive, and enjoy.



“Lord Jesus, I open. Fill me. Flood me with Your wonderful Spirit. Lord Jesus, I love You!”